



APRN NEWSLETTER

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APRN co-organizes Global Training on CSO Development Effectiveness story on page 1



Participants of the first Global Training of Trainers on CSO Development Effectiveness. Photo by APRN Secretariat

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Photo by APRN Secretariat

Civil society commits to expand outreach on Istanbul Principles and Enabling Environment, charts initial plans to move forward

APRN Secretariat

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- Around forty (40) civil society educators, facilitators and trainers gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa on June 25 to 27, 2013 to attend the first Global Training of Trainers (Global ToT) on CSO Development Effectiveness. The Global ToT was among the major activities of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) through its Working Group on CSO Development Effectiveness (WG on CSO DE) to reach out and encourage more civil society organizations to look closely into their organization's praxis as accountable and effective independent development actors. The Global ToT also serves CPDE's objective of strengthening capacity of CSOs to further promote and advocate for the development effectiveness agenda, and reaching out to more CSO commitments in implementing the Istanbul Principles. The CPDE is the unified platform coming out from the two civil society processes, post-Busan High Level Forum IV, i.e. the Better Aid (BA) and the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness (OF).

The Training of Trainers aimed to develop the capacities of trainers, educators and facilitators to further promote the Istanbul Principles and the Siem Reap International Framework on CSO Development Effectiveness, at the country, regional and constituency levels. The three-day training provided an opportunity for participants not only to be familiarized with the resources and tools produced to further the work around CSO development effectiveness, but also to walk through some of the discussions and activities developed in the Implementation and Advocacy Toolkits, CSO Wiki Page and the Practitioners' Guide. The WG envisions that the participants will replicate the training in their country and/or constituency and further promote and implement the Istanbul Principles and the complementary tools.

CIVICUS Secretary General Danny Sriskandarajah, in his welcome address, reminded the participants that donors,

governments and other development actors have not lived up to the promises they made around development. He said that for civil society, development effectiveness is essentially about citizen voices to say enough is enough.

CPDE, CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment

Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) Chair Maria Theresa Lauron discussed the historical and political context of the CPDE. In her presentation, Ms. Lauron emphasized the important role played by CSOs, through BA and OF, in shifting the discourse of aid effectiveness (AE) to a more thoroughgoing development effectiveness (DE).

Ms. Lauron provided the background on civil society engagement in the aid effectiveness discourse, as well as how civil society struggled to gain official recognition as an independent development actor with multiple roles played in development. Civil society went to Busan as an independent development actor co-equal other development actors such as governments, and donor agencies. The civil society key messages were brought into the table through CSO Sherpa Antonio Tujan, Jr., now co-chair of the CPDE. Ms. Lauron also shared on the global CSO-led process which led to the consolidation of the Istanbul Principles, and the International Framework, which became the core civil society reference for its own effectiveness and accountability. The presentation also emphasized on the new structure and mandate of the CPDE, and how the work should synergize with other initiatives. In the end, she also shared that the CPDE has designed a multi-year plan which reflects activities at different levels of work.

Ms. Lauron also added that all work of the CPDE fall on priority areas and shall all be coordinated within the structure. CPDE also branches out to different arenas of development work to improve CSO representation and

participation. Besides the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), it also engages with the Policy Forum for Development (PFD) of the European Commission, Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), and the Post-2015 Development Agenda of the United Nations. Different CPDE working groups, i.e. CSO DE, Enabling Environment, Post- 2015 Agenda and Human Rights-Based Approach, also engage in advocacy work.

Ms. Ciana-Marie Pegus of CIVICUS delivered a presentation on CSO Enabling Environment. Ms. Pegus emphasized the current emerging international consensus on the importance of enabling environment for civil society, such as the recognition from the Busan Partnership Document (paragraph 22). She also shared that CIVICUS produced a State of Civil Society Report for 2013 which documents the current situations that CSOs experience in their country context. According to Ms. Pegus, CIVICUS is working out an Enabling Environment Index to track progress on commitments and actions following Busan HLF. The CPDE Working Group on Enabling Environment (EE) is now deep into fleshing out GPEDC Indicator No.2, which zeroes in on the issue of enabling environment for civil society. CIVICUS also co-chairs the CPDE WG on Enabling Environment, alongside the Reality of Aid- Africa.

After plenary presentations, participants were divided into break-out groups where they worked on activities in the Practitioners' Guide. Break-out sessions served to be spaces to share their thoughts on the plenary discussions. Activities were also used to provide opportunities for interaction, and simulation for future outreach work on CSO DE in different levels of CPDE work, especially at the country and organizational levels.

Ways forward for CSO DE work

The participants were also asked to chart their own regional plans to bring the CSO DE work forward, which were presented in the plenary for sharing and discussion. Most plans from the participants centered on three areas of work for the CPDE, namely capacity development, outreach and expansion and advocacy and engagement.

Mr. Duncan Holmes of Canada together with Ms. Kemberley Gittens of Barbados plan to conduct capacity development interventions such as setting up virtual working groups and hosting several sessions in North America and the Caribbean. They also intend to produce a social media plan for their general public and media outreach for the two regions.

Participants from South Asia shared their plans of replicating the training to CSOs to their constituencies in their countries and in their region. Baseline research was also one of the key plans that they want to work on to guide succeeding works around CSO DE. The group's plan to review existing country laws that directly and indirectly affect the existence of CSOs and their operations were presented by Jyotsna

Mohan of India.

The group composed of participants from Asia-Pacific (South East Asia, Pacific and Central Asia) plans to improve coordination among CSOs and start building a database of knowledge and experiences around CSO DE. Social media will be utilized for expansion of the knowledge and will involve other stakeholders through sensitization workshops and policy dialogues.

The Africans were divided into two groups in doing the regional plan, one for Anglophones and the other for Francophone. Francophone Africans emphasized synergizing the work on CSO DE with their own regional concerns such as respect for human rights, freedom of expression, accountability, good governance, and transparency. They also believe that the work will actually contribute to the society's recognition of the CSOs contribution to development which is one of the core principles of enabling environment.

The Francophone-African group planned to replicate the training with other organizations. They look forward to leveraging existing networks that they engage with to be able to take the Principles of CSO DE forward. They also look at the possibilities of building communities of practice to serve as a platform to share experiences and lessons learned.

Mr. Alejandro Barrios from Bolivia shared the initial reflections and plans of the Latin America group on how to move forward. The group linked programs on education, environment, and social empowerment to the CSO DE Principles. They also reflected that as CSOs look at their own effectiveness, there should be a unified understanding of what development really means, and then introduced the concept of *buen vivir* or living well or sustainable development for Latin Americans. CSOs also need to validate their own roles in the changing political, social and economic environment, and should be always informed with concrete plans on how to move forward.

Charlotte Boisteau of France plans to review the current state of play for appropriation and the proper implementation of the Principles at all levels of work. She plans to do internal workshops with other NGOs and local authorities in her country and continue analysis of CSO effectiveness to generate social change.

The regional plans were synthesized by Ms. Lauron in her presentation on the CPDE structure. She also clarified that although the plans are still on the drawing board, these will be inputs to the plans of the Working Group on CSO DE for the next three years. Once there is an agreement on including the regional plans to the CSO DE Working Group, they shall be done within the CPDE structure. Ms. Lauron also introduced the members of the Global Council, including the focal points. The whole training concluded with remarks made by Ms. Amy Taylor, Head of Partnerships at CIVICUS. ###



Asian youth leaders participate in the Global Power Shift Climate Summit in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, Turkey -- Representatives of the Asian youth joined hundreds of young climate justice advocates from 134 countries at the Global Power Shift Summit in Istanbul from June 24 to 30, 2013. The Istanbul climate summit is the first-ever international conference dedicated to building a global youth movement towards solving the climate crisis.

Many of the summit's attendees are already leaders of youth movements in their home countries. Participants include activists fighting coal plants in India, islanders raising awareness about sea-level rise in the Pacific, Kenyan youths campaigning for sustainable development across Africa, and student activists leading a new, fossil fuel divestment movement in the United States.

Among the diverse array of participants are youths who represented various organizations committed to combatting the global climate crisis. The Filipino delegates were:

- Feby Basco-Lunag, representing the Cordillera Youth Network for Global Change
- Philline Marie Donggay, a Climate Leader with the Climate Reality Project
- Leon Dulce, campaign coordinator of the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment
- John Lumapay, Artist and Teacher
- Marjorie Pamintuan of the Asia-Pacific Research Network
- Erin Sinogba, representing Redraw The Line, a climate change campaign led by the Asia-Pacific Media Alliance for Social Awareness

Participants of the said event aimed to represent the concerns of millions of people around the world already feeling the impacts of climate change, from worsening droughts, devastating storms to the persistent sea-level rise that threatens many island nations and coastal communities.

“Young people from around the world came to Global Power Shift to build a movement that can create the political will necessary to solve the climate crisis,” said May Boeve, the Executive Director of 350.org, an international climate campaign youth network that convened the summit. On Saturday, June 29th, Global Power Shift participants joined a march in Istanbul with thousands of Turkish citizens and Greenpeace campaigners to protest against coal-fired power plants. Coal-fired power plants are the biggest source of manmade carbon dioxide emissions that are already causing severe weather patterns and ruining people's health.

Greenpeace International Executive Director stated that the youth delegates of the climate summit will serve as the next wave in the global movement to stop cases of coal burning and in the future campaigns for climate change.

General Secretary of the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN), Marjorie Pamintuan further stressed the need to tackle climate concerns especially in the Asia Pacific where seven out of ten countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts can be found.

“Asia Pacific is home to the world's most poor and climate-sensitive livelihoods such as agriculture and fisheries. Along with lives and livelihoods, cultures and social identities also face the risk of being lost as communities confront the threat of migration due to the destruction of their habitats. The Global Power Shift provided a venue to build the capacities of climate campaigners to build and strengthen the movements in their countries to address the impacts of climate change, step up the fight against fossil fuels, and demand climate justice for the poor and vulnerable populations,” she added.

Leon Dulce of the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment commended the GPS for providing the

opportunity to unite East Asia constituents towards resolving four major areas of climate change that include 1) coal divestment and renewable energy, 2) extractive industries (i.e. mining, agri-industrial plantations, 3) foreign investment in dirty industries, and 4) large dams (i.e. the Mekong river). Dulce also expressed optimism in seeing a “qualitative leap” in the Asia-wide campaign for climate change in the years to come.

The workshops at the GPS trained participants in the fields of campaign strategy, online organizing, communications, and public mobilization. The workshops were led by seasoned activists behind some of the past decade’s most successful environmental and social justice campaigns. Participants also shared their own lessons and skills in self-organized sessions and regular meetings with activists from their region.

“Global Power Shift was an excellent opportunity to meet and share stories with hundreds of like-minded climate leaders from all over the world, as well learn some new, valuable skills. I enjoyed and felt energized by the great work being done all over the world. I look forward to starting our

work helping those most affected by the climate crisis in the Philippines,” said Erin Sinogba of the Redraw The Line Campaign.

The Global Power Shift Summit was convened by 350.org, an international climate campaign that has organized over 20,000 climate demonstrations worldwide together with a coalition of partners including Friends of the Earth International, Greenpeace International, the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice, and numerous youth climate groups among other climate advocates. The conference was hosted at the Istanbul Technical University. GPS was inspired by a series of national Power Shift summits that have taken place over the last five years in the United States, Europe, and Australia. After this week’s summit in Istanbul, participants will head home to organize their own national Power Shift summits, mobilizations, and campaigns around the world. Plans are already underway for a 10,000-person U.S. Power Shift in Pittsburgh this October hosted by the Energy Action Coalition. ###

Rescind concession agreement with Maynilad, Manila Water, group demands

IBON Foundation | www.ibon.org

MANILA, Philippines- Advocacy group Water for the People Network (WPN) urged Malacanang to rescind the concession agreement (CA) between the government and the two water concessionaires, saying that consumers are extremely disadvantaged under the CA.

The WPN recently revealed that the two private firms have been passing on the costs of their corporate income taxes to consumers.

Under the CA, one way to resolve disagreements is through arbitration, the related costs of which will be charged as “expenditures” to consumers. According to the MWSS-RO, there have been three major arbitration cases so far since 1999, and these have cost the regulatory office around Php 140 million. This amount does not include yet the expenses incurred by the concessionaires for lawyer fees and technical experts (estimating to at least another Php100 million).

That consumers will shoulder the arbitration panel-related expenses highlights further the fundamentally defective CA. According to the WPN, the agreement was designed in a way that tariffs are regularly adjusted to ensure the profits of the two private firms, as well as the repayment of loans incurred by the MWSS privatization. For instance, aside from the rate rebasing every five years, the basic charge is also adjusted to include inflation adjustments, extraordinary price adjustment (EPA), environmental charges, etc. Consumers are also being double-charged for currency fluctuations through



Photo from IBON Foundation facebook page

the foreign currency differential adjustment (FCDA) and the Php1-currency exchange rate adjustment (CERA). The WPN estimated that CERA collections have already reached Php 7.2 billion since 1997, of which Php 3.4 billion went to Maynilad and Php 3.8 billion to Manila Water. FCDA and CERA are among mechanisms meant to protect the water concessionaires from losses brought about by forex fluctuations that could bloat their loans.

The group said that terminating the concession agreement is a step to solve the unjust water rates. Public control and participation, especially of consumers and the communities, in managing the water services system, must be encouraged to ensure that the people’s interests are protected. ###

Speakers Demand Debt Cancellation and Democratic Space for LDCs

Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh
www.equitybd.org

DHAKA, Bangladesh-- Civil society rights groups network EquityBD and VOICE criticized United Nations High Level Panel (UN HLP) report on post 2015 agenda terming it “as lofty goal and empty bowl” and said that the report is in fact a far short in transforming economies. The UN HLP report has just been published on June 30, 2013 in New York. The UN HLP was co-chaired by UK Prime Minister David Cameron, Indonesian President Dr. Susilo Bambang and Liberian President Alen Johnson Sirlef. The press conference was moderated by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, chief coordinator of EquityBd, while the position paper was read out by Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, executive director of VOICE.

Speakers criticized the UN HLP report for over emphasizing on free market and private sector financing for development. They said the report has not been able to strike a balance between private sector and public financing. They urged that free market notion is responsible for proliferating poverty and global inequality and widening the gap between the rich

Ifugao celebrates 29th Cordillera Day

Center for Development Program in the Cordilleras
www.cdpckordilyera.org

IFUGAO, Philippines -- The 29th Cordillera Day Celebration in Ifugao was simple yet full of sharing of experiences, issues and lessons from the participants. It also showcased the growing mass movement in Ifugao. More people's organizations and advocates joined this year's Cordillera Day celebration from the two districts of Ifugao.

In total, at least 300 participants attended the 29th Cordillera Day Celebration at Ifugao State University Lagawe Campus on April 24, 2013. The participants were representatives of different chapters of the Ifugao Peasant Movement (IPM) and Katribu Indigenous Peoples Party list from the different municipalities of the province. Support groups and institutions also joined the celebration, among them, the Center for Development Programs in the Cordilleras (CDPC), Cordillera Women Action Education and Research Center (CWAERC), Migrante-Hongkong, Alliance of Concern Teachers (ACT), Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA), and Montanosa Research and Development Center (MRDC). There is also a significant number of first time participants to the Cordillera Day.



Photo from Equity BD

and poor. They have also mentioned that generally, private finance always look for profit rather than growth with justice and equity.

Speakers placed four points to the HLP and the Secretary General of the United Nations to consider in the post 2015 development framework. The demands are: (i) for developed countries to recognize their historical responsibility; (ii) for LDC debts to be cancelled and there should no debt creating instruments in the name of development assistance in the future; (iii) for democratic policy space to be created for LDCs and developing countries in international financial institutions (IFI) like World Bank, and IMF; and (iv) holding back arm race and army expenditure in countries to establish peace and security. The groups pleaded that countries like Bangladesh should take lead in the intergovernmental process and raise voices ahead for post 2015 development agenda. ####

Also, among the delegates of this 29th Cordillera Day are victims, families and relatives of Martial Law Victims from Hungduan and Tinoc municipalities. Most participants brought whatever they can, food, drinks, and any kind of support, to contribute for the event.

The one-day affair focused on the discussion of the Cordillera Day history, the current electoral situation in the country, the Ifugao Provincial situation, and the automated election system and poll watching.

A main highlight of this year's Cordillera Day was the presentation and affirmation by the delegates on the seven petitions prepared by people's organizations mostly from Tinoc. These petitions include: (1) the numerous violations on the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) by the National Commission on the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); (2) environmental and climate change issues; (3) militarization; (4) peasant issues in the corn areas; and, (5) the immediate release of political detainees and political prisoners.

The activity ended with a solidarity night, which was a celebration of martyrdom of Ifugao leaders, through singing, dancing and story-telling. ####

SRD facilitates launch of Cooperation Plan 2013 and Workshop on Climate Finance

Center for Rural Sustainable Development | www.srd.org.vn

HANOI, Vietnam -- On June 11, the Centre of Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) as chair of the Steering Committee of the Vietnam NGO and Climate Change Network (VNGO & CC), facilitated the launch of Cooperation Plan 2013 and the Workshop on Climate Finance in Viet Nam. The events were carried out in collaboration with the Department of Hydro-Meteorology and Climate Change (DHMCC) under MoNRE and the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), represented through CARE and Oxfam.

More than 100 participants from various CSOs attended the workshop. Among the participants were professionals with distinguished expertise which enabled the planning and development of many innovative projects. APRN co-chair Ms. Maria Theresa Lauron was invited at the workshop to give a presentation on climate finance. Ms. Lauron is also the focal person of the CPDE Reference Group on Climate Finance.

Climate Finance is among the key themes being discussed in climate change forums around the globe, and it is essential



Photo from SRD

that the Vietnamese government will join forces with NGOs to make the most of available opportunities. One of the major take-home messages from the workshop was the need for a more effective collaboration between government agencies from central to local level and NGOs. .

Joint actions for climate change response in Hue city

Center for Sustainable Rural Development | www.srd.org.vn

HANOI, Vietnam--- Center for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD), in collaboration of HueFO, organized a conference entitled “Joint actions for Climate Change Response and Disaster Reduction in Thua Thien Province” as part of the VM031 Project “Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation”. This one-day event attracted over 70 representatives from the local government agencies, academia and NGOs throughout the province.

At the conference, representatives from government agencies introduced the strategic direction of the province on climate change response. The conference created a space for sharing and discussion on the development of the provincial action plan responding to CC, on the issues and solutions for different sectors in relation to CC response. With 14 presentations, participants also shared experiences, results and achievements from various studies and projects implemented by research centers and NGOs on different topics such as forest protection, adaptive livelihood models, and natural disaster risk reduction. This is part of an incredible amount of work, which is already being put into concrete actions by many organizations. The different

presentations also confirmed the urgency of climate change adaptation in the province.

The conference received positive feedback from participants. Representatives from government agencies, research institutions and NGOs expressed that the conference was not only a good opportunity for networking, but also an efficient way for the local NGOs to communicate with the local government about the pressing issues of climate change as well as to share concerns and generate recommendations for local authority in developing and implementing climate change actions.

Bringing government officials, experts and development workers sitting together around the table, this event was definitely a step in the right direction, to facilitate joint actions against the threat of climate change for effective response, like the title of the workshop implies. Following up with the results of this conference, HueFO and NGO network committed to facilitate further interactions and sharing among NGOs and government agencies in the near future. ###



Campaign for C189, Get Organized!

Statement on the International Domestic Workers' Day

Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants | www.apmigrants.org

Two years ago, the Domestic Workers' Convention or C189 was overwhelmingly passed by members of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in its 100th International Labour Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. It was a momentous victory for thousands of migrant organizations and advocates that have been advocating for the recognition of domestic work as work. But much more needs to be done before domestic workers all over the world, including migrant ones, can reap the fruits of this victory.

The C189 faces hurdles that have stymied previous migrant-related conventions, including the UN Migrant Workers' Convention. A slow rate of ratification, stonewalling by receiving countries and lack of awareness even among migrants themselves still threaten to reduce C189 to insignificance, useful only for academic and other abstract purposes. Two years after its passage in Geneva, only four countries have ratified the Convention thus far: Uruguay, Philippines, Mauritius and Italy. ILO Member-states seem to be in no hurry to embrace C189 fully and unleash its potential within their own territories, and this is a worrisome trend for domestic workers everywhere.

Migrant organizations and advocates around the globe must push harder to have C189 ratified and implemented by national governments, especially in migrant-receiving countries where foreign domestic workers (FDWs) are most vulnerable. Those in the Asia Pacific have to push harder than most, as the region is home to majority of the world's domestic worker population, including migrant ones. Much more coordinated campaigning, awareness-raising and organizing need to be done by migrant organizations, especially grassroots one, for the Convention to be adopted universally and make its mark in the daily lives of domestic workers. It is with these

imperatives in mind that APMM has come out with its C189 Campaign Toolkit, which is expected to be used extensively by migrant organizations in their action plans for persuading ILO Member-states to adopt the Convention.

On the other hand, the campaigns for recognition of domestic work as work and promotion of FDW rights does not lie solely (or even mainly) in the progress of C189's ratification. Even as governments are slow in adopting it, migrant organization can already make use of its standard-setting provisions as leverage for advocacy, and as a moral suasion tool in negotiating with other migration stakeholders. In many cases, citing decent work and human rights statutes or even sheer pressure by highly-organized grassroots migrant organizations have been successful in swaying state policies in favor of migrant workers. The point is not only for FDW organizations to campaign hard for C189's ratification and maximize its full potential, but also to make do with currently available advocacy tools. At the end of the day, it is the ever-growing organized strength of grassroots migrant organizations that will decide the struggle for their fundamental rights, with or without the Domestic Workers' Convention.

Every year that sees the growing strength of the grassroots migrant movement and the increasing adoption of the C189 by governments brings us closer to that day when domestics will no longer be considered as slaves, but as workers. As we also commemorate this occasion as the International Domestic Workers' Day, in itself a triumph of our collective determination, let us recognize the tasks ahead and strive ever harder to contribute to the historic task of eliminating the roots of forced labor migration. ###

Reference: Ramon Bultron, APMM
E-mail: rbultron@gmail.com

As we also commemorate this occasion as the International Domestic Workers' Day, in itself a triumph of our collective determination, let us recognize the tasks ahead and strive ever harder to contribute to the historic task of eliminating the roots of forced labor migration.

Jobless rate remains unchanged too under Aquino's 3 years amid 'growth'

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

MANILA, Philippines-- The country's unemployment rate has remained unchanged at 7 percent on the average since President Aquino assumed office in 2010, labor center think tank Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research (EILER) said today as poverty incidence has been found out to stay the same in the last 6 years. EILER said that the January 2013 unemployment rate was at 7.1 percent, which is almost the same as the July 2010 unemployment rate at 7 percent. In actual terms, the number of jobless Filipinos grew by nearly 200,000 during the said period based on the labor department's data.

On April 29, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) released a report showing that poverty incidence remains unchanged from 2006 to 2012.

"Such failure to create a dent on joblessness and poverty incidence underscores the hollowness of the stock market hype and supposed economic growth under Aquino. What we have is economic growth that produces super profits for big companies instead of jobs for ordinary Filipinos. Aquino's brand of growth is one that perpetuates poverty and social inequality," EILER executive director Anna Leah Escresa said.

"If ever there are new jobs, these are contractual and vulnerable jobs that are concentrated in the informal and

services sector such as in construction and business process outsourcing, not in the industries," she added.

Escresa also noted an "unprecedented surge" in the number of underemployed Filipinos since Aquino assumed the presidency.

"The number of employed Filipino workers looking for additional work increased by 22 percent, from 6.5 million in 2010 to nearly 8 million in January 2013. This clearly shows how current compensation levels are insufficient to meet the rising cost of living," Escresa said.

"Workers are being forced to seek multiple jobs because wages are ridiculously low in the country at only \$8 per day on the average. Their chances of survival are getting dimmer under this administration which places premium on corporate interests," she added.

EILER explained that the lack of decent jobs will persist as long as the Aquino regime relies on neoliberal policies, dependence on foreign investments to support non-productive sectors of the economy such as business process outsourcing (BPO), trade, mining, and real estate. Decent job creation will only be achieved with a nationalist economic development that is based on achieving national industrialization and genuine agrarian reform. ###

Environment rights groups want climate commission

Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment | www.voicebd.org

DHAKA, Bangladesh -- Environment rights groups said on Wednesday that the climate change adaptation planning has barely been integrated into Bangladesh's national budget 2013-2014. A national climate commission should be formed for appropriate integration of climate adaptation, which is necessary for the country's survival, groups demand.

Syed Aminul Haque of EquityBD read a keynote paper describing agriculture and healthcare as the most important areas with regard to climate adaptation. He pointed out that the government has reduced the budget allocation for the two sectors (agriculture and healthcare) this year, compared to the previous year.

Haque termed the government's Bangladesh Climate Change Strategic Action Plan (BCCSAP) as a mere standalone

document, which has barely been integrated into the Sixth Five Year Plan of Bangladesh.

Atiqur Rahman Tipu of the Coastal Development Partnership (CDP) mentioned that a single ministry cannot act to pursue or coordinate among other ministries and both the BCCSAP and the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) have not been effective. He said what the country needs is a national climate commission as in the Philippines.

Farzana Akhter from VOICE said women are the worst victims of climate changes, adding that the government should prioritize budgetary allocation in the health sector on women-related issues. Mizanur Rahman Bijoy of NCCB said there are allegations of corruption and lack of coordination regarding the management of the BCCTF. ###



OUR WORLD. OUR FUTURE. OUR GOALS.
CAMPAIGN FOR PEOPLE'S GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

High Level Panel report fails to address wealth and power inequalities says civil society

Campaign for Peoples' Goals on Sustainable Development | www.peoplesgoals.org

Civil society groups have responded to the long awaited release of the UN High Level Panel's report to the UN Secretary General on the post 2015 development framework with disappointment. While the report aspires to eradicate extreme poverty and promote sustainable development it has failed to put forward meaningful recommendations or targets that would challenge the economic systems that fuel inequalities and environmental degradation according to diverse civil society groups from around the world.

"The report says a lot about inequality but it says nothing that would actually redress the gross concentration of wealth, resources or power that is at the heart of poverty, injustice and environmental ruin today" said Paul Quintos of IBON International. Indeed there is no single mention of the word "redistribution" or "redistributive" in the 81-page document. "Instead it simply promotes more of the same – more economic growth driven by private sector investment, and even goes as far as to promote the WTO which has been discredited as a vehicle to protect multi-nationals" he added. "These strategies are great for billionaires but not good for workers dying in factories, not good for indigenous people forced from their lands to ensure the profits of mining companies, not good for migrant domestic workers working endless hours without days off, wages or protection."

"The absence of an absolute commitment to achieve decent work for all is a serious omission" said Sharan Burrow, Secretary General of the International Trade Union Confederation.

"Setting a goal to bring the number of people living on less than \$1.25 per day to zero is simply not enough. This is what Bangladeshi workers producing garments for global markets are paid today, as are construction workers building skyscrapers and football stadiums in Gulf countries and agricultural workers producing for global food corporations," she noted. "Job creation, worker's rights, social protection and social dialogue cannot be seen as too lofty an ambition for developing countries. This is discriminatory and an acceptance of exploitation", she concluded.

The report includes a stand-alone goal on gender equality, which many women's organizations hoped for, and sets a target for universal sexual and reproductive health and rights but is still criticized by women's groups "While it's pleasing to see the stand-alone goal and the inclusion of sexual and reproductive rights, we're disappointed that the report fails to address the fundamental economic inequalities that exist between countries, between rich and poor as well as between men and women" said Kate Lappin of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development. "We hoped to see meaningful goals that would ensure women domestic workers a living wage, that would send a clear message about land-grabbing and forced evictions of women and that would ensure that governments take concrete steps like cutting military spending and increasing spending on universal social services" she said.

Civil society also expressed concern that the report sets no concrete targets to address climate change. "They have included a target of staying

"These strategies are great for billionaires but not good for workers dying in factories, not good for indigenous people forced from their lands to ensure the profits of mining companies, not good for migrant domestic workers working endless hours without days off, wages or protection."

below 2c warming but there is no obligation on governments to take action and nothing that makes countries with the responsibility – those countries who have contributed most to global warming – to take action. The report plays it safe when it comes to the question of financing for sustainable development by recommending that a future UN conference should tackle the matter. “Where’s the sense of urgency that this planet actually needs radical transformation to survive” asks Ahmad SH of WALHI-Friends of the Earth Indonesia.

The report acknowledges the need to improve accountability systems, particularly by enhancing access to information through a new ‘data revolution’. But the report fails to recognize the need for stronger regulatory frameworks, especially for the corporate sector, which is responsible for much of the unsustainable production and consumption patterns prevalent in the world today. Instead it relies on the “willingness on the part of large corporations as well as governments to report on their social and environmental impact in addition to releasing financial accounts.”

The HLP Report does contain positive elements and a number of welcome recommendations such as:

- Recognizes human rights, notably the right to food, sexual and reproductive rights, freedom of assembly, due-process rights, etc. and proposes a number of rights-based targets;

- Calls for disaggregating data by wealth (bottom percentile), gender, location, age, disability;

- A gender goal and ending child marriage;

- Recognizes social protection and proposes some universal targets around water, sanitation, and energy;

- Calls for ending fossil fuel subsidies;

- Calls for reducing illicit financial flows and tax evasion

“However, as a report that should set the agenda for discussion among governments and other stakeholders, we demand a much bolder and visionary analysis and set of recommendations including measures for the redistribution of ownership, access and control over productive resources so that no one is denied the basis for living in dignity and freedom and in harmony with nature” explained Azra Sayeed of Roots for Equity in Pakistan.

The Campaign for Peoples Goals for Sustainable Development calls on the UN Secretary General to go beyond the HLP report and make much more ambitious recommendations to member states that would address the structural causes hindering sustainable development. ###

Reference:

Shanthi Sivakumaran
ssivakumaran@iboninternational.org

‘...we demand a much bolder and visionary analysis and set of recommendations including measures for the redistribution of ownership, access and control over productive resources so that no one is denied the basis for living in dignity and freedom and in harmony with nature.’

CDP challenges ADB on behalf of Bangladeshi peoples group

Coastal Development Partnership | www.cdcbd.org

KHULNA, Bangladesh-- Coastal Development Partnership (CDP), RUPSA, Paribartan-Khulna, SEDOP, and NGO Forum on ADB jointly organized a Human Chain in Khulna on April 25, 2013. The organizations demanded extension of time period for the affected people to claim compensation to ADB for their projects. Jafar Imam presided over the Human Chain.

Mr. Shamol Singh Roy (Sammilito Samajik Andolon), Shahnewaz Ali (Brihattara Khulna Unnayan) and Sangram Parishad, General Secretary of SUJON were present and spoke at

the event. They clearly expressed their solidarity on the issue and demanded that ADB should be accountable to local people.

SM Iqbal Hossain Biplob presented the six point demand on behalf of the Khulna Jessore Drainage Rehabilitation project implemented by the ADB. Development Activist Afjal Hossain Razu, Hironmoy Mondal of Rupsa, Fazle Bari of AOSED, Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Rama Das, Nikhil Biswas, Afroza of CDP were also present in the said event. ###



ADB challenged to ditch its anti-people policies and projects, pursue genuine development

APRN Statement on the 2013 Annual Governor's Meeting of the Asian Development Bank

As the Asian Development Bank's 46th Annual Governors' meeting was being held in Noida, India on May, the Asia Pacific Research Network challenged the ADB to abandon its anti-people and market-centric development framework that has led to massive disempowerment and impoverishment of the people.

Noting the ADB's theme for this year's meeting "Development through Empowerment", APRN General Secretary Marjorie Pamintuan said "Asia's Destructive Bank is responsible for decades of debt, destruction and disempowerment in the region, and should therefore ditch its promotion of the distorted economic model that has perpetuated poverty, pollution and displacement."

Empowerment and the New Factory Asia: Old Formula and Empty Promises

The ADB boasts of high economic growth rates that supposedly lifted millions out of poverty. It however, acknowledges that despite economic development in the region, it is still home to two-thirds of the world's extreme poor and that there has been a steep rise in income inequality and access to basic services.

What the ADB failed to mention is that the economic growth that it boasts of, is in fact, fuelled by the environmental destruction caused by large scale natural resource extraction and energy projects that the Bank funded and also the exploitation of hundreds of thousands of workers that provided abundant cheap labour for the manufacturing industries that set their factories in the export processing zones (EPZs) in Asia. Policies pushed by the ADB such as labour flexibilization were implemented to keep wages low and maintain a docile labour force.

Despite the robust economy in the Asia Pacific, further economic expansion is threatened by the projected weakening growth rates across the region and the lingering crisis in the West. To keep economies strong and make growth

sustainable and inclusive, the ADB says the region must transform beyond "Factory Asia." This includes moving low-value manufacturing up the value chain and shifting towards services and knowledge-based economies.

What is in store for the people in the ADB's New Factory Asia and empowerment strategy is more disempowerment for the people. While the ADB says it wants to improve the access of vulnerable groups to health, education and other services, it does not recognize that the old formulas such as liberalization of trade and investments, and privatization of social services, public utilities, and natural resources are in fact among the perpetrators of chronic poverty and inequality. Rather, the ADB wants to provide a healthy environment, not for the people, but for foreign monopolies to invest and earn super profits by further dominating the economies of developing countries.

The ADB cannot and will not promote genuine development as long it sticks to the same discredited development framework that puts big foreign capitalist interests and private sector profits first over the welfare of the people. This is well reflected in the ADB's Strategy 2020 which puts private sector development and participation and the advancement of public-private partnerships at the heart of its operational goals in its core operation areas: infrastructure development, environment including climate change, regional cooperation and integration, financing sector development, and education.

The network reiterates the growing call to end anti-people policies including but not limited to the privatization of social services and public utilities, the absolute and unconditional cancellation of illegitimate debts, compensation and public apology for the victims of ADB's policies and funded projects, the rehabilitation of environments, economies, and livelihoods of the peoples that were destroyed, and the respect of the political, economic, social, and cultural rights of the people. ###

'[The ADB] is responsible for decades of debt, destruction and disempowerment in the region, and should therefore ditch its promotion of the distorted economic model that has perpetuated poverty, pollution and displacement.'



IPA-North Sumatra Committee calls on government to stop trade liberalization and uphold sovereignty

Photo from IPA website

Indonesia Peoples' Alliance | <http://indonesianpeoplesalliance.wordpress.com/>

NORTH SUMATRA, Indonesia --Eighteen mass organizations and civil society organizations in North Sumatra, together with progressive academicians gathered in a public forum and declaration of Indonesian Peoples' Alliance-North Sumatra Committee held in Wisma LPPM North Sumatra University. The discussions centered on APEC Summit and WTO 9th Ministerial Meeting which will both be hosted by the Indonesian government in the second half of the year. The said public forum was organized by the Indonesian Environmental Forum (WALHI) and Serikat Petani Kelapa Sawit (SPKS/ Palm Oil Workers' Union).

The public forum was attended by resources persons from several sectoral organizations in North Sumatra. During the event, a general message resonated from the speeches delivered: that WTO does not give any benefit to the people, and has just exploited the people of Third World Countries. The WTO did not permit people of these countries to recover from the impacts of international monopoly capitalism crisis.

Yati Simanjuntak from KSPPM said: "WTO scheme in agriculture sector has resulted to further marginalization of women and eviction of peasants and indigenous peoples from their lands. Regulations made by the Indonesian government, like Law on Food, do not only attack peasantry but also ignore women's role in agriculture"

Rahmad Panjaitan from the student government of North Sumatra University, said: "We are aware that education in Indonesia is threatened by the liberalization scheme that have worst impact. Citizen's right to education is being restricted by University Law which set excessive education fee. With a law like this, access to education in North Sumatra has been reduced by 30%, because largest part of North Sumatra population is peasantry"

From the workers sector, Ahmad Syah (Federation of Independent Trade Union-GSBI Sumut) said labor market flexibility, a component of trade liberalization, is being

implemented by the government in the form of outsourcing and contractualization of workers.

"In North Sumatra, our investigation found out that the number of outsourcing and contractual workers increased by 5% per year, which is also parallel with union busting practice"

While Oding Affandi, an academician from the North Sumatra University explained that trade and free market are being used by developed countries for their own interests. Their intention to break the protection measures of developing countries is a threat to sovereignty. He also argued that trade and free market result into unjust situations which put developing countries at the disadvantage. He also underscored the United States' manipulation in these agenda to further their own agenda, among others.

The forum concluded with an urgent task for mass organizations and other civil society groups to unite and take initiative in responding to APEC and WTO meetings, and consistently campaigning resistance against international monopoly capitalism that is guarded by the puppet government. The participants committed to consolidate their efforts under Indonesian Peoples' Alliance as broad platform to campaign Sovereignty and Trade to Serve the Peoples. IPA North Sumatra Committee (IPA NS Com) was established. WALHI-North Sumatra will become the secretariat and Ranto Sibarani and Kotib as coordinators. ###

Members of IPA NS are
 Pusaka Indonesia | FMN Cabang Medan | Kontras Sumut
 AGRA | LPPM USU | RAPALA INDONESIA | GSBI
 SUMUT | ELSAKA | SPKS | KOTIB (Ranto Sibarani,
 081370161508) | BITRA Indonesia | PKPA | KSPPM
 PEMA USU | Serikat Petani Indonesia-SUMUT
 BAKUMSU | WALHI SUMUT (Kusnadi Oldani
 081533101592) | KDAS

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) 9277060-62 loc. 202

Telefax: (632) 9276981

Email: secretariat@aprnnet.org

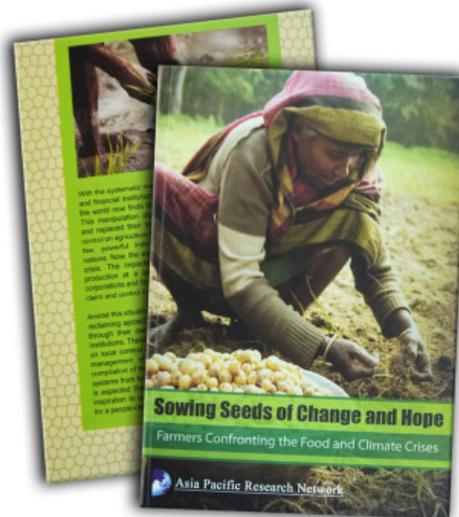
Website: www.aprnnet.org

Secretariat:
Marjorie Pamintuan
General Secretary

Jodel Dacara
Junior Programme Officer

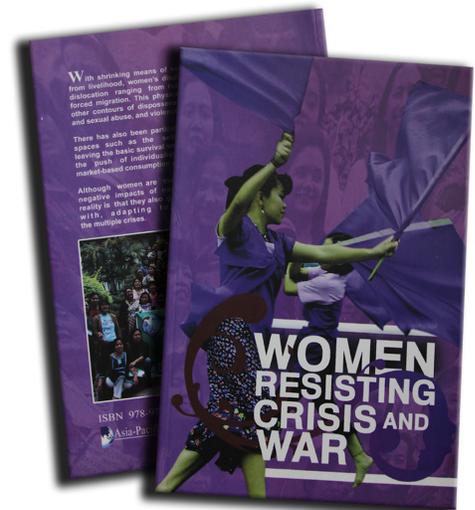
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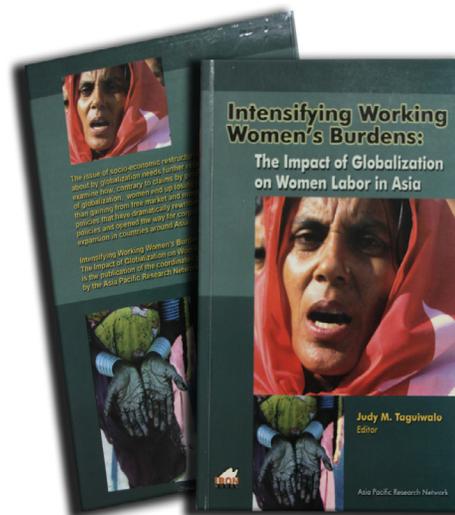
Sowing Seeds of Change and Hope ^{INNEW!}

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



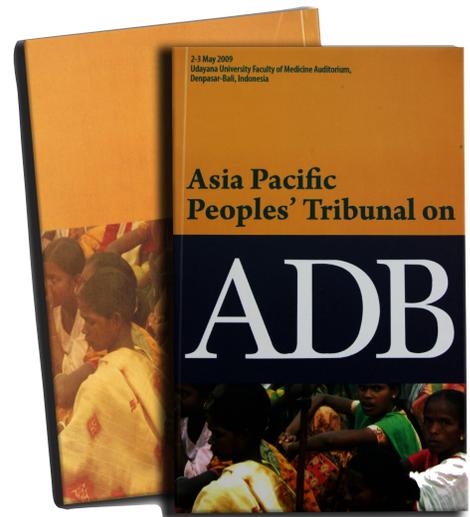
Women Resisting Crisis and War ^{INNEW!}

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.