

Workshops und events: Open Space

AEPF11 is structured to encourage discussion, sharing and the development and articulation of alternatives. It has three phases:

1. Contexts and Analysis:

The Plenaries (day 1, morning) will be the time for Context and Analysis where we can discuss unifying threads and discuss our understanding of the processes that produce and replicate inequality, poverty, exclusion, injustices, rights violations, or climate change/global warming. We will look at issues linking and across themes.

The First Set of events/workshops is for the introduction into each of the seven themes, for this the format could be a panel discussion, inputs by speakers, etc.

2. Lessons Learned, Successes and Failure:

The Second Set of events/workshops is for deepening of our seven themes. Here we can discuss the contexts, problems and key barriers to taking our agendas forward and the responses and strategies developed by movements and civil society organisations to respond to them.

3. Strategies for People's Visions and Future Perspectives:

Here, we can develop alternatives, our People's Visions. This is where the processes for how to get there, how we progress towards them are presented. These again correspond to our themes and that have been the focus for discussions in the first two phases.

A moderated Plenary where a summary of each of the Thematic Clusters' proposals for Strategies for People's Visions will be shared with all participants.

Open Space:

Besides these events, organised by Working Groups for each thematic cluster, there will be space for self-organised workshops. These **Open Space** workshops could be related to the seven themes, but also taking up issues and debates independent of those.

Note: Last minute changes are always possible – and to be expected! Venues will be State Palace or National University, rooms will be announced later

Open Space:

„Transforming Tourism“

This workshop addresses the urgent need to transform travel and tourism and to work for inclusive and just alternatives. The United Nations have declared 2017 as “International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development“. This provides enhanced opportunities to advance analysis and awareness of the real costs and benefits of a sector that widely and deeply affects people’s lives and livelihoods, and of its actual contribution to development. New strategies are urgently needed to strengthen civil society networks and facilitate joint initiatives for transformative action. The workshop is intended to help in building new alliances to address issues related to tourism, in solidarity with communities affected by the negative impacts of tourism or other developments in which tourism plays a role.

Introduction: Christina Kamp, Bread for the World-Tourism Watch, Germany

Sumesh Mangalasseri, Kabani - the other direction, India

Bayarsuren Yalalt, Ger to Ger Foundation, Mongolia

Maria Youngsin Lim/Juhee Shin, Imagine Peace, South Korea

N.N., Mongolia

Moderator: Andy Rutherford, Fresh Eyes, UK

Open Space:

Strategic Perspectives on Migrants and Refugees

A large number of refugees and migrants are moving across countries and continents in search of a life in peace, dignity and economic security. Europe faces dramatic humanitarian situations and new politics of border regimes. Recently in Asia, the refuge, enslavement and rejection of “stateless” Rohingyas was an appalling social tragedy.

Throughout, Governments tighten legal and security measures, further deterring and criminalising refugees, and curtailing human rights. Right wing populist forces call aggressively for a strong state defending national identities and abuse and attack migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Failing to address the root causes of migration, most European states respond in an increasingly authoritarian way, and take the hard-line, racist immigration and detention policies adopted by Australia as a model. Right wing governments in the EU are unwilling to live up to values of democracy, human rights and social welfare in the state level negotiations, dismantling Europe without borders (Schengen) as a political project and a social model.

In Merkel’s “summer of migration”, civil society groups and a large number of individuals practiced a “welcome culture”. Based on solidarity and voluntary work, they have set up support structures from language classes to “autonomous” schools, medical treatment to legal advice. Beyond this kind of humanitarian aid, political struggles against deportation and around a right to stay, for freedom of movement and right to citizenship are popping up in many places. Protests are further characterised by the fact that refugee and migrant activists raise their voices without intermediaries, speak and organise for themselves. A key assumption is that nobody should be forced to leave his/her home country but everybody

should have a right to migrate. Human rights of everybody have to be respected, protected and enforced everywhere.

The AEPF will be a space for CSOs from Europe and Asia to explore the root causes of migration and the political responsibility of the Global North, share lessons learnt, strategies and perspectives. The issue of refugees and migration has to be taken up by social movements into their struggle for human, social and citizens' rights for all, and against xenophobia, structural racism, and harsh border regimes, respecting the diversity of people. Including partners from migrant and refugee movements, we want to build momentum toward a constructive criticism and joint political action beyond the conference.

Speakers:

Tom Cassee, moving-europe, Switzerland
Lilianne Fan, Geutanyoe Foundation, Thailand
Bonn Juego, University of Helsinki, Philippines

Open Space:

“You may have Paris. But we will block TTIP!”

Trade deals, climate treaties and responses by social movements.

The policy areas of trade and climate have their own respective negotiations and conferences, agreements and deals. Many NGOs and social movements follow those closely, criticising and resisting policy proposals. But treating climate trade as separate fields is dangerous as both are closely interwoven. Emissions driving climate change are in fact an unaccounted cost of the goods and services exchanged in our increasingly complex and globally integrated production and consumption chains. Commitments to lower carbon emissions are counteracted by trade and investment deals, whose purpose is to increase the trade in goods and services, thus increasing carbon emissions. Simultaneously, as recent leaks on the TTIP texts reveal, the trade deal would grant broad rights to corporations to undermine climate policies. ISDS (Investor State Dispute Settlements) could undermine government's ability to regulate and pursue sensible climate policies, as corporations are able to file claims for forgone profits and “unjust treatment”. And we know that corporations in carbon-intensive industries are some of the biggest users of these ISDS mechanisms.

Growing movements of those advocating climate justice as well critics of trade and investment started to tackle the trade and climate nexus. The anti trade and investment movement and the climate justice movement need to develop common strategies and develop effective campaigns and lobby tools to address two of the most fundamental and seemingly contradictory challenges of the 21st century.

Speakers:

Christina Pina, Ingenierias sin fronteras
Lucile Falgueyrac, Seattle2Brussels Network
Alex Scrivener, Global Justice Now, UK
Josua Mata, Alliance of Progressive Labour, Philippines

Moderators: Lidy Nacpil, APMDD, Tom Kuchartz, Ecologistas en Accion, Spain

Open Space:

Women, Work and Care Extractivism

Women and girls remain overrepresented in the informal economy, labour-intensive and precarious work, and in low-paid jobs (e.g. in agriculture, household work, care work, and domestic work). At the same time, the dominating conceptualisation of ‘work’ as ‘wage work’ or an ‘income-generating activity’ does not include the unpaid care work, domestic work and the subsistence livelihood work that women perform. A more transformative approach is therefore required to infuse human rights with women’s perspective to combine economics with social and human development. This workshop strives to highlight that just and favourable conditions of work for women are issues common to development, human rights and labour work, and should be addressed by a concerted effort. Further, just and favourable conditions of work go hand in hand with economic emancipation of women through participation in the formal economy. Thus, influencing change and promoting women’s economic empowerment require specific, targeted policy interventions. The speakers will analyse how existing human rights and labour rights standards and development guidelines can respectively advance fair working conditions for women. They will identify gaps in the current frameworks and propose a holistic approach to ensuring rights at work for all women workers.

The workshop will focus on concept of decent work and sustainable livelihoods from women’s perspective.

The workshop will provide strategic perspective regarding women and decent work to be included in the AEPF Charter. It gives a much nuanced understanding of work beyond an economic or income generating activity.

The workshop will be organised by PWESCR (Programme on Women’s Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and WIDE+ in Europe.

Contact person: Priti Darooka, PWESCR, pdarooka@pwescr.org

Open Space:

How to use United Nations mechanisms for your local LGBTI lobby and Advocacy?

Part 1: Which opportunities does the United Nations system offer you?

We will be looking at the different UN Mechanisms, how they work, and how you can utilize them for your own national lobby and advocacy for LGBTI rights

Part 2: Sharing best practices – Mongolia and The Netherlands

We will be sharing actual cases on how UN mechanisms were utilized by LGBTI organizations in Mongolia and the Netherlands.

Organisers:

Alexander Hammelburg, COC, The Netherlands
Anaraa Nyamdorj, LGBT Centre, Mongolia

Open Space:

Round Table discussion of North East Asian Civil Society Organisations**Co-organisers:**

Korea Center for UN Human Rights Policy (KOCUN)
Forum Asia for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
Human Rights NGOs Forum (HR NGO Forum)

Northeast Asia Civil Society Forum has convened twice in 2011 and 2013 following the recommendations of Annual Universal Human Rights Discussion. The Forum aims to discuss the implementation of UPR recommendations in Northeast Asian region with the regional CSOs, experts, academics and UN Human Rights expertise. The following issues were discussed in the 1st and 2nd forums (Tokyo, Japan, October 28-30, 2011, resp. Seoul, Korea, July 31- August 2, 2013).

It was decided at the Forum Two to organize the next forum in Mongolia. There is a challenge in fund raising for organization of the sub-regional CSOs Forum. At the same time, Mongolia is organizing the high level convention of Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) in 2016, which is affecting the funding. However, we have planned to organize a Roundtable discussion of Northeast Asia CSOs basing on this event. There is the 11th Summit of the people of Asia and Europe planned prior to ASEM convention between July 4-6 2016. We have been planning to organize a half-day Roundtable discussion for the CSOs participating in this summit.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF
NORTH EAST ASIAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
July 5, 2016**

AGENDA

Co-organizers:

*Forum Asia for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
Korea Center for UN Human Rights Policy (KOCUN) to be confirmed
Human Rights NGOs Forum (HR NGO Forum)*

GOAL

- 1) Discuss recommendations, good practices and lessons received from UPR 2nd cycle and share experiences among the sub region;
- 2) Discuss the future sustainable cooperation of Northeast Asia CSOs in human rights field

Venue: Soyombo, 5th floor, Best Western Premier Tuushin Hotel

Date and time: 11.10 – 14.00, July 5, 2016

Moderator: (tbc)

11.10 – 11.20 Opening remarks by the Co-Organizers

Effectiveness of, engagement in UN Human Rights Mechanisms and cooperation of NEA civil society in human rights field

11.20 – 11.50 UPR 2nd cycle reviews of Mongolia and Implementation plan, CSO engagement, good practices, and lessons learnt

The Mongolian Human Rights NGO Forum (tbc)

11.30 – 11.40 UPR 2nd cycle reviews of South Korea and implementation plan, CSO engagement, good practices, and lessons learnt

(tbc)

11.40 – 11.50 Engaging with UN Human Rights Mechanisms

The Amnesty International in Mongolia

11.50 – 13.00 Open Discussion

12.50 – 13.00 Closing remarks

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch /provided in Best Western Premier Tuushin Hotel/

Open Space:

Global Production Networks and Labour Solidarity between Europe and Asia

Context: Over the last decades, global capital has shifted production to Asia, creating new centres of production and large new working classes, whilst de-industrialising large parts of Europe. In Asia, workers' rights are often ignored by authoritarian regimes of various hues and activists can only organize in semi-legal conditions, giving rise to new forms of militant struggles. In Europe, de-investment and austerity regimes, precarisation and the rise of right wing movements and regimes place new challenges to labour movements. A defining and common feature of globalised capitalist production is the spatial organisation in Global Production Networks, linking groups of workers in specific industries in Asia and Europe in new ways. However, the labour and trade union movement has yet to tap into the potential that these GPNs offer for organising workers, developing their power and for forging solidarity links between the two continents. Rather, trade unions and labour parties are still organised in "national container states" and internationalist strategies focus primarily on "framework agreements" in which a handful of trade union officials participate in stakeholder initiatives dominated by those governments and corporations who are responsible for repressive labour regimes, low wages and precarious working conditions. The challenge now is to transnationalise organising strategies by linking groups of workers along the GPNs so that they can develop industrial strike action and campaigning potential.

Aim of this event: The AEPF meeting in Mongolia is an opportunity for bringing together labour activists (workers, workers councils, unions, NGOs etc), who can learn from each other's experiences and who can jointly develop and discuss ideas for transnational labour

solidarity between Europe and Asia. European activists, for instance, can learn from semi-legal organizing strategies and militant wild cat strikes of workers or from organizing in the ‘informal’ sector in Asia, whilst Asian workers and activists will be interested in recent experiences of generalizing labour struggles against austerity agendas. The workshop starts with a focus on the “Exchains” initiative that links textile workers in Asia with works councils in the retail industry in Europe. It will then try to apply lessons learnt from this initiative to other GPNs such as the palm oil industry. The objective is to expand transnational organizing initiatives into other sectors and to develop long term ties between groups of workers in Asia and Europe.

Guiding Questions:

- What strategies have been pursued to link and organise workers and activists? Which experiences have workers/activists made here? What successes have been achieved so far? What problems have arisen and/or still exist? What potentials await to be developed?
- How does present labour solidarity between Asia and Europe in the global textile and palm oil industry concretely look like? How could/should labour solidarity look like?
- How could we establish and strengthen the link, the organization and network between workers and activist from Asia and Europe? What kind of strategies need to be pursued? What (concrete) steps need to be taken?

Possible Inputs:

- Transnational Information Exchanges (TIE) → Michael Fütterer
 - Gudrun Willner, H&M Betriebsrätin, involved in Exchains
 - Trade union activist from the textile industry in Cambodia
 - Trade union activist from the textile industry in Bulgaria
 - Palm oil workers union (Malaysia or Indonesia)
 - Transnational labour solidarity initiative for the palm oil sector (Oliver Pye, Stiftung Asienhaus)
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Open Space:

Peace building in the Korean Peninsula

The Northeast Asia region remains characterized by Cold War era political interactions. The region is, at times, charged with fierce rhetoric amid fears of military escalation, and lacks institutional mechanisms for peace and security. The Korean Peninsula remains in an armistice system, without a peace treaty to end the Korean War. The absence of sustained dialogue and repeated military aggressions have heightened tensions within the Korean Peninsula and across the region. In order to move towards realizing regional peace and stability, it is imperative to revitalize dialogue processes on wide-ranging issues, including the Six Party Talks, based on mutual trust and confidence among all parties.

This event will consider the role of civil society, as well as cooperation between civil society and governments in Asia and Europe, towards peaceful resolution of the situation on the Korean Peninsula. In particular, it will introduce the Ulaanbaatar

Process, a civil society dialogue for peace and stability in Northeast Asia launched by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) in the Mongolian capital in 2015. Coordinated by the GPPAC Global and Northeast Asia Regional Secretariats and Mongolian NGO Blue Banner, this process promotes effective regional Track 2 dialogue, seeking to strengthen the role of civil society as a complement to the Track 1 process, towards the development of an institutionalized regional peace and security mechanism for Northeast Asia.

Furthermore, it will place a spotlight on the strategic role of Mongolia within this context. Mongolia is a state with internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free status that benefits from political security assurances of the five nuclear weapon states. It also maintains friendly diplomatic relations with all the states of the Six Party Talks and other states of the region. Hence it is well positioned to play a significant and unique role as provider of political space and venue as well as a possible mediator for regional dialogue. Crucially, the Ulaanbaatar Process creates space for civil society perspectives from across the region, including both the DPRK and ROK, to be heard in the same forum.

Bringing together perspectives from civil society based locally in Mongolia (Blue Banner), in Korea (People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy), the broader Northeast Asia region (Peace Boat) and globally with a European base (GPPAC), this event will provide a critical opportunity to examine the role of civil society, how to further cooperation between these levels of local-regional-global, and contribute to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula through multi-stakeholder collaboration and dialogue.

Organisers:

Peace Boat, tbc

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, Korea

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (Netherlands)

Blue Banner

Contact person: Meri Joyce, Peace Boat

Open Space:

The Debt Issue and People's Campaigns in Asia and Europe: Challenges and Prospects for United Front and Struggles

The issue of debt and its devastating impacts on the people's livelihood, welfare, development and rights, on the affected country's economy and sovereignty are continuously being manifested in a number of countries in Asia and Europe. The Greek and other European countries' debt crisis and the people's resistance against austerity measures and other creditors' harmful conditionalities and in Asia, the lingering debt problems in the Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar and Mongolia—are major issues and flashpoints of people's resistance that remain a major part of the global movement for social justice. The AEPF 2016 is an opportunity to enliven the discourse and carry out a critical reflection on the state of play, the challenges and issues as well as on opportunities and prospects for a

global united front and common struggles to effectively combat the continuing debt burden and crisis. The workshop will explore effective strategies and alternatives that will eventually usher in a just and better world-- characterized by freedom from debt , poverty and inequality for many of the impoverished peoples, including women, on whose backs the full weight of this burden and bondage is being imposed.

Organisers:

Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC)-Philippines
ADB NGO Forum
Debt Movement in Greece or Eurodad (tbc)Sanchir Jargalsaikhan, Mongolia (tbc)

Contact: Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC)-Philippines, Sammy Gamboa,
Sammy.fdc@gmail.com

Open Space:

Social, political and ecological impacts of the OBOR-strategy

The region of Asia, particularly China, plays a key role in the implementation of international development and sustainability goals as well as the global climate treaty. China's development does not only generate an enormous growth rate, but also conflicts and negative impacts in terms of ecological destruction and poverty. The new Silk Road strategy (abbreviated: OBOR: One-Belt-One-Road) extends already existing ecological corridors and infrastructural investments, in e.g. Myanmar and Laos. This creates a comprehensive regional economic and political initiative.

Focus of the open space shall be on the citizens perspective of the social, environmental, economic and human rights developments which have been accelerated by the new dynamics of the Silk Road strategy. China's development model as well as the global hunger for resources and markets can intensify current conflicts and increase inequality and injustice. On the other hand, more potential for development is being created. Therefore, our key question is: Which development constraints and development potentials are generated within the Silk Road OBOR strategy.

Speakers:

Wen Bo, Advisor for GGF and Air and Water Conservation Fund, China
Nora Sausmikat, Stiftung Asienhaus
Sukhgerel, OT Watch

Contact person: Nora Sausmikat, Director China Program, Stiftung Asienhaus, Germany.
n.sausmikat@asienhaus.de

Open Space:

Trade Agreements and Health Care

Monitoring Sustainability of Globalisation (MSN), chaired by Charles Santiago (MP), is putting together an Open Space discussion at AEPF11 on the impact of modern-day trade agreements on healthcare, specifically access to affordable medicine for all.

The main idea of this open space is to get on board groups who are already advocating health campaigns at their national levels to build a consensus and mount a cross-country alternative to keep out healthcare from trade agreements as health cannot be a tradable good.

Interested persons / groups, please submit your details to jayjay1_4denis@yahoo.com

Contact: Jay Jay Denis, Monitoring Sustainability of Globalisation, Malaysia.

Open Space:

Re-imagining (maritime) security – and contending with militarism, marine resource and food security issues in the Asia-Pacific Seas

The militarisation of the Asia-Pacific seas has been a consistent and growing concern not just in Southeast Asia and the greater Asia-Pacific region but also beyond.

This trend is characterised by the deepening Chinese involvement in territorial and sovereignty disputes within the East and South China Seas with ASEAN member-countries and other neighbouring countries (like Japan), and the overt, as well as the tacit alignments of other world powers (such as, the United States' Pivot/Rebalance to Asia and the Pacific) both as a cause and result of the former. The increasingly frequent standoffs span from the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands, on China's eastern flank, to the long stretch of archipelagos in the South China Sea that comprise hundreds of islets. Also, the various mutual maritime defense and arms treaties between and among several SEA and East Asian countries as well as the US and Australia are both manifestations and contributing factors to the rising tensions.

On top of the geopolitics of the dispute, the environmental and food security aspect - a crucial but often overlooked topic in high-level discussions on regional security - that is affected by this territorial dispute will seriously complicate the latter. For one, in the South China Sea, analysts often refer to the strategic military and trade importance of a state's dominance in these seas, and as to the economic interests in the oil and natural gas reserves in the area, the marine life and biodiversity, a supposed renewable resource, is facing a huge risk of destruction from overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, marine pollution, and the degradation and destruction of marine habitats. Without regional collective action, or a form of collective governance over the sea, the rapid industrialisation and the growth in populations and food needs in the next years will surely hasten the already growing competition over resources, and will further undermine regional stability.

On the individual and local level, coastal fishers regardless of nationality have to often contend with harassment from rival claimant-country's navy or coast guard, effectively hampering their access to their traditional fishing grounds and severely impacting on their lives and their livelihoods. The depletion of coastal marine resources pushing fishers and countries pushing the need to explore and compete over the resources in the high seas is one domestic policies and realities aspect shaping foreign relations that need to be examined further, if we are to identify effective interventions to these disputes.

It is highly doubtful that the legal-diplomatic track, specifically the upcoming resolution of the case between Philippines, China in the Permanent Court of Arbitration, will be enough to manage, much less resolve, the various and inter-locking dimensions of these maritime disputes.

A ‘realist’ perspective on international affairs would regard the volatile disputes in East and Southeast Asia seas as cause for pessimism. But as Asian countries look beyond their territory in defining more globally focused interests, a ‘realist’ interpretation of their motivations and behaviour seems too restrictive. As regional power dynamics and agendas evolve, governments and policy-makers have to reconsider legal and substantive meanings of sovereignty, and reassess shared norms and protocols for governing interactions at sea.

Against this backdrop, we propose instead a historically and environmentally informed analysis of how the maritime context has shaped specific challenges and interactions in the region. Moreover, we propose that we look at other underlying sources of tension and we expand the discourse to cover cross-boundary concerns in the region’s maritime affairs, in our search for alternative tracks towards managing, if not resolving, these tensions.

Organisers:

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, The Netherlands
Coalition for the International Criminal Court-Asia Pacific
Initiatives for International Dialogue, Philippines
Peace Boat, Japan
Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation, Vietnam
Mongolia (tbc)

Contact person: Marc Batac, GPPAC-Southeast Asia, mbbatac@gmail.com

Open Space:

Strengthening the European AEPF Network

The Asia Europe People’s Forum (AEPF) is the longest operating civil society forum that connects CSOs and social movements from Asia and Europe. This year AEPF celebrates its 20th anniversary and the 11th Forum is taking place in Ulaan Baatar. Yet the European side of AEPF network is in a crisis: generally speaking solidarity groups have strong links with Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. Asia is also not big on the agenda of movements or NGOs and in the development sector, the first programmes to be scrapped are often in Asia. A second major challenge has been the location of the ASEM meetings during which the AEPF organises its biannual forums. Some host countries do not have very vibrant social movements or vigorous and critical civil society organisations, and some host governments are quite restrictive, hence the possibilities to renew and invigorate the network during the Forums can be quite limited. A third shift has occurred in the way political and social sphere: while the older generation of activists has a strong internationalist stance, often with strong ties to Asian movements, the younger generation of activists focus more on campaigns such as climate, divest, social protection or right to the city.

The question is: how can we reinvigorate the AEPF network in Europe. We strongly believe Asia is a particularly interesting region for those working on social, economic and environmental justice, who have an interest in solidarity work, and who believe that connecting with organisations and movements in Asia is a way to advance and grow the movement at home. We therefore invite everyone, from Asia and from Europe, to discuss the following questions with us:

Organisers:

Kris Vanslambrouck, 11.11.11, Belgium
Nicola Bullard, CCFD, France
Conny van Heemstra, Stiftung Asienhaus, Germany

Contact: Kris Vanslambrouck, 11.11.11, Belgium

Open Space:

The EU Development Cooperation Framework on PPPs in Agriculture and its Impact on Developing Countries in Asia

The phenomenon of public-private partnership (PPP) has facilitated private investments in a sector not traditionally dominated by private investors – agriculture. This has immediate impact on agricultural countries whose food security depends on smallholder farmers, as the private sector is inclined to direct capital where it is most profitable and not to directly increase farm productivity and eradicate rural poverty.

PPP projects across the globe, regardless of the economic sector being targeted, have been mostly in the lucrative business of infrastructure. In the case of agriculture, PPP projects are also in infrastructure but in the framework of developing a competitive value chain, such as building of farm-to-market roads, markets, irrigation systems and seed banks, as well as agricultural research and innovation. The bottom line in agriculture is the distinct role of land as a productive asset, i.e. the private investors can derive additional profit from their direct involvement in production. PPP in agriculture thus inevitably strengthens corporate control, and this has tremendous impact on farmers' access and control of land and natural resources.

Such partnership, however, has been highly supported and promoted by the European Union member states along with European corporations investing in developing countries. On 2011, the European Commission's official communication entitled: Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change has clearly elaborated its endorsement for PPP as part of the new direction of EU development policy. Clearly endorsing that It should explore up-front grant funding and risk-sharing mechanisms to catalyze public-private partnerships and private investment.

By 2014, "A Stronger Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries" has been adopted by the European Commission, setting out the role of private sector at the forefront of international development in its partner countries. The Commission made clear indication to explore options to expand the scope of mobilizing private resources for development through blending in new areas especially in sustainable agriculture. It encourages European companies to

contribute to enterprise development in partner countries by integrating local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises into their supply chains, especially in the agriculture and agro-food sectors.

On the other hand, initial researches and case studies contend that in agriculture, PPPs are doing more harm than good in ensuring food security of developing countries. Evidence shows that PPPs in agriculture strengthens corporate control of technology, inputs, seeds, infrastructure, and land and natural resources, which makes it almost impossible for farming communities to direct agricultural services and innovation to where these are needed. Likewise, farmers' capital build-up is negated as they pay for user-fees, patents and taxes for PPP projects.

CSO also claims that PPPs ruin local, indigenous and gender-based knowledge, and biodiversity-based techniques. PPPs threaten small farms that are reliant on these as well as the national capacity to produce food for domestic consumption. At times, the public sector loses the leverage to direct and regulate private investment in key food crops since this authority has already been given to the private sector.

It is in this regard that a workshop/open space is being proposed to conduct a focus discussion on PPPs in agriculture within the Europe-Asia Development Cooperation Framework which will cover the following topics:

- Current policy framework on PPPs and development cooperation is adopting such partnership.
- European Investment trends in Asia on PPPs in Agriculture and its impact on developing countries' food sovereignty.
- Impacts from the ground: case stories of PPP projects in agriculture.
- Policy alternatives and recommended actions for different stakeholders.

The activity aims to put forward policy formulations for advocacy that can be fed to the overall theme of the 11th Asia-Europe People's Forum specifically on the Food Sovereignty topic. The Asia-Pacific Research Network (APRN), The People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty together with the Centre for Human Rights - Mongolia (CHRD) will organize the event that will be participated by other CSOs from Asia and Europe.

The organizers will bring in resource persons for the activities along with the needed logistical requirements to organize the event. CHRD, as the host organization, along with the Mongolian Coalition on Food Sovereignty, will also help to make sure that the activity is going to be successful.

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Open Space:

Linking Trade and Democracy

In the modern era, trade is not only simply about the exchange of goods and services. So deeply linked are countries with each other through trade and investment agreements that these agreements can strongly influence domestic policy-making, which are more often than not, tipped towards the interests of the big economic powers and corporations.

The rise of 21st century agreements is best described with the creation of trade deals that not only involve trade in goods and services but also in changing domestic policies to accommodate increase in trade as well as to strengthen investment protection. However, these have had negative impacts on democracy and peoples rights both in Europe and Asia. Unregulated trade liberalization in Asian countries such as the Philippines and Mongolia has displaced local industries and their workers. Meanwhile, stronger investment protection under the investment-state dispute settlement (ISDS) have been known to be harmful towards local policy making. Corporations have sued countries under the ISDS for cases such as increasing the minimum wage (Egypt), stopping fracking (Canada), prevention of water table pollution (Mexico), etc. The negotiation of the TPP and the TTIP has largely been opposed by civil society and peoples movements because of these agreements' promotion of increased trade liberalization and also the expansion of corporate rights under ISDS. The investment court system as proposed by the EU on the other hand needs a careful analysis on whether it really provides a good alternative to the ISDS.

Aside from increased liberalization and expansion of corporate rights, another main issue with the TPP, TTIP, and other regional and bilateral trade and investment agreements is the secrecy surrounding the negotiation of these trade agreements. These agreements are usually done behind close doors. Negotiating documents are also held with the same high level of secrecy. Spaces for CSOs and peoples movements to engage the crafting of these policies that will affect them are more often than not absent whether at the national, regional, or global levels. This leads to the question whether these agreements are really made in the interest of the public. With Europe and Asia having close links through trade and investments, these agreements should be scrutinized on how they affect democracy in both regions.

The workshop will discuss the links between trade and investment agreements and how they affect democracy in Europe and Asia. In particular, the workshop aims to:

- Analyze the trends in trade and investments between European countries and Asian countries
- Discuss how trade and investment in Europe in Asia have impacted people's rights in both regions
- Explore existing mechanisms in which civil society engages the policy making when it comes to trade and investments
- Explore in what ways civil society and governments can promote the protection of democracy and people's rights in the face of negotiating and implementing trade and investment agreements.

The workshop will be co-organized with Asia Pacific Research Network, Center for Human Rights and Development, and the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty. At the end of the workshop, it is expected that the participants and organizers come up with policy formulations that can be fed in to the 11th Asia-Europe People's Forum and the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting. Aside from policy formulations, the workshop also intends to come up with common initiatives on trade and investments between the participants.

Contact person:

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Asia Pacific Research Network

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