

WORKSHOP 2
**GRASSROOTS EMPOWERING THEMSELVES
TO ENSURE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND:
LESSONS FROM FOUR COUNTRIES**

Date: March 26, 2019
Time: 11.15am to 1.15pm
Venue: Khaosan 1 (2nd Floor), Ibis Style Khao San, Bangkok

At the Asia and the Pacific Peoples' Forum for Sustainable Development (March 24-26, 2019) on Day 4 there is the "People's Workshop 4.0: Harnessing the power of Peoples' Movements for a fairer, just and equitable Asia Pacific".

At the Workshop ASEC will present a four country case study on how CSOs are implementing SDGs on the ground, finding solutions and addressing issues such as inequality and discrimination through social solidarity economy (SSE) and people empowerment in addressing these at the grassroots levels, drawing policy implications at the national, sub regional and global levels.

Building on the theme of leaving no one behind these four grassroots movement case studies will illustrate the challenges faced by the informal urban sector major women in Bangkok where there is a class structure for economic and political survival, unemployed Tamil youths in the post conflict context of Jaffna in Northern Sri Lanka where discrimination is a major barrier. In addition the Malaysian case study will illustrate the challenges being faced by the forest communities of Indigenous people among the Orang Asli Jakun community who struggle with land ownership issues and finally the challenges being faced by ethnic and religious minorities especially women in rural Pakistan.

Here we will illustrate how the informal sector in Bangkok not only organised income generating projects but also walked the streets to protest against unjust restrictions on their rights to generate income by the streets. In the case of Jaffna Tamil youths how they are equipping themselves with alternative skills as well as self-organising in addressing crime, drugs and gangs. In the case of the Jakin tribe in Malaysia on how through collective organic farming they are addressing unjust markets and finally women self-empowerment in rural Pakistan. These case studies will illustrate the fivefold principles of SSE namely socially responsible governance, social protection, environmental protection, economic sustainability and edifying ethical values.

In localising SDGs we can draw from these four target groups at the grassroots how they have empowered themselves and ensured that they are not left behind. From these real life examples we can draw implementation strategies for overcoming and addressing inequality and discrimination across gender, ethnicity, and class among the bottom 40% of the social economy divide. We can draw policy implications as well as budgetary implications for scaling up impact among the most vulnerable sections of our Asian communities.

Panel Presentations & discussions

Workshop organiser & Moderator: Prof Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria (Chair of ASEC-Asian Solidarity Economy Council/RIPESS Asia & Institute of Ethnic Studies, National University of Malaysia (UKM).

Concluding comments & policy implications: Mr Gomer Padong (Philippines Social Enterprise Network)

Details of the country presentations:-

Name	Organisation/country	Target group
Ms Poonsap Tulaphan	(Home Net, Bangkok Thailand)	Urban informal sector, women
Ms Jocelyn Jayasooria	(LBC Puttur, Jaffna, Northern Sri Lanka)	Tamil Youths, Post conflict villages
Mr Along Gera @ Josiah	(YKPM Malaysia)	Indigenous people/Forest based community
Mr Wong Kian Leong	Living Water Foundation, Chengmai, Thailand	Rural patients & families
Mr Arif R Haryono	Dompot Dhuafa, Jakarta, Indonesia	Rural farmers & Islamic finance
Mr Zakir Hossain	Bangladesh Dalit & excluded rights movement	Dalits
Mr Darpan Chhabra	Prayatna Samiti, Rajasthan, India	Tribals

For further details (also if you like to share your views & experiences) and registration:-

Host of the workshop Prof Denison Jayasooria

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