

**A NEED TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AND  
NETWORKS WHICH CAN ENHANCE THE SSE GLOBAL  
MOVEMENT IN A DYNAMIC AND IMPACTFUL WAY**

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# ASEC OPEN SPACE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION AT THE ASIA EUROPE PEOPLE FORUM (AEPF) HELD ON MAY 19, 2021

- 90 people participated the global conversation on May 19, 2021
- Nine key speakers and three moderators
- 1 Key note
- 5 case studies
- 3 Partnership speakers

From SYNTHESIS & LESSONS LEARNED by DJ

- Ideological conversation
- The faces of social exclusion
- Social inclusive initiatives
- Relevant emerging thematic aspects
- Policy coherence: National policies & SSE movements
- we can identify five (5) areas of engagement through which we can strengthen our partnerships.

# 1. Pursuit of Ideological Discourse

- Neo liberal development framework verses the solidarity framework.
- The investor model of development verses sustainable economic model
- Practitioners must confront the economic theories and provide alternative development discourse
- Academics and academic institutions as partners in the SSE movement can play a bigger role in re writing the economic development agenda which is empowering and inclusive.

## 2. In-depth studies of the faces of social exclusion

Six communities experiencing exclusion :-

- Communities isolated and negatively impacted by the **caste** system and gender inequality especially impacting both women and communities categorised as backward
- **Farmers & rural poor** communities
- **Forest communities**, forest user groups and indigenous people
- The **urban poor and the informal sector** majority of whom are women
- **Migrant workers** and the experiences of exclusion and exploitation
- There is a **gender dimension** in all the above target groups and this is a key SSE agenda

### 3. Strengthening of people's alternative social inclusion initiatives

Six community initiatives with thrust of social protection

- **Community based economic initiatives** which is different from the investor model of economic activities.
- **Cooperatives as community based enterprise models.** This has the largest potential for SSE at the ground level in Asia in organising grassroots communities.
- Urban farming and community cooperation.
- **Community based forestry.** There is great potential for this especially rural and interior communities
- **Financial inclusive** programs as alternative micro credit to conventional banks
- **Micro insurance programs** which specially targets the poor, informal sector and the Bottom 40 % communities,

# 4. Mainstreaming of alternative socio economic models.

- The theme of **food security** through various community farms as well as organic initiatives.
- The theme of **conservation and bio diversity** especially in the role of community forest users groups. Forest users groups as a dynamic development of a social movement for conservation and wealth creation via natural capital.
- **Inclusive governance models** where the whole community is involved as co-partners.
- **Local enterprise development** as well as building local economy in a decentralised development planning model rather than top down.
- **Mutual benefit societies and self-help groups** which is more inclusive and empowering. Often these are women led at the grassroots and from among the grassroots communities.

# 5. Critical engagement with the Government and policy advocacy.

- National level legislative & constitutional protection for vulnerable groups
- Development planning
- Stronger advocacy for public policies which can serve as an enabling framework at the national and local levels
- Rigorous methodology to measure impact of SSE projects and programs are needed so as to gather data, quantify it for national, regional and global advocacy for the alternative solidarity model.
- We need to develop the tools and measurements

# WAY FORWARD

- Need for social movement building of vulnerable communities in claiming their rights
- Financing for SSE alternative economic activities, research & advocacy, capacity building & networking
- Building a strong grassroots voice
- Capturing the intellectual conversation
- Building young leaders & strengthen women leadership