

TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIC MOVEMENTS AT THE ASEAN GRASROOTS: HOPE & INCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

While ASEAN countries are experiencing economic growth, these economic models are also creating greater socio-economic inequalities which is disempowering the Bottom 40 %. However we see there is a grassroots movement with alternative economic models setting new innovations in the market place through community & solidarity action. These grassroots community action for economic inclusion and socio-political empowerment is taking place in a number of ASEAN countries consistent with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) & the ASEAN 2025 community Agenda.

ASEC which is a network of social solidarity economy partners provides at APF 2018 concrete grassroots examples both at conceptual policies as well as grassroots experiences from four ASEAN countries namely Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia & Thailand.

OBJECTIVES

Review some major concepts & policies such as Social Solidarity Economy (SSE), Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the ASEAN 2025 community agenda.

Critically assess the socio-economic issues as it impacts the Bottom 40% of the ASEAN communities with a focus on Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia & Thailand.

Highlight ground experiences of how B40 empowered communities are challenging dominant business premises through alternative solidarity economic activities which are transformative

Highlight the potential of SSE for the holistic implementation of SDGs in ASEAN countries.

Promote the World Social Forum of Transformative Economics – Barcelona 2019 & 2020

PRIORITY ISSUE & CONCERN

Drawing from the SDGs and SSE approach, there are concrete ground experiences which are challenging the dominant business & economic premises through alternative socio-economic community action. This panel discussion will capture both the conceptual differences as well as practical grassroots example. Questions on the nature of economic model & priorities, is it a balanced economic model and is it inclusive for all sections of society especially the Bottom 40%

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

Dr Ben Quinones (Philippines) – Economic challenges and alternatives through Social solidarity Economy – conceptual overview as well as grassroots examples from Manila

Dr Boon Namsonboon (Thailand) – Informal sector in Bangkok providing economic solutions as well as challenging discriminative economic policies

Dr Eri Trinurini Adhi (Indonesia) – Grassroots collective economic activities in Indonesia

Mr Kon Onn Sein (Malaysia) – Indigenous people empowering themselves through organic farming which is economically transformative

WORKSHOP MODERATOR: Prof Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria (ASEC Chair) – will also provide an overview introduction to SDGs, SSE & relevance to the ASEAN community agenda.

PRESENTATION FORMAT

We will have five brief presentations (10 minutes each) with power points follow presentations. This will be followed with the remaining time for comments, sharing, questions & time for interaction.

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