

ASEAN Civil Society Conference / ASEAN Peoples' Forum 2016



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1st Regional Consultation & Meeting 31 March – 1 April 2016, Bangkok

1. Welcome Remarks

- Welcome speech by Jerald Joseph and Fernando da Costa
- Jerald Joseph conducted a quick icebreaker activity

2. Session 1: Background Information on APF

Speaker: Jerald Joseph

- ACSC/APF2016 will be in Timor-Leste from the 2nd – 5th August 2016
- A run through of the schedule for the day and the hand out given
 - o Guiding Principles and Engagement Modality
 - o FCAA 2016 Research Framework
 - o Short article on ASEAN Community Vision 2025

3. Session 2: Understanding Timor-Leste

Speaker: Fernando da Costa, Alzira S.F. Ries, Gaudencio Soares Souza

Moderator: Jerald Joseph

- Fernando da Costa and Alzira Ries presented a brief background of Timor-Leste which includes the achievements of Timor-Leste so far and also the issues that are of concern in Timor-Leste. Refer to the Annex 1 for details.
- Gaudencio Soares Swoza explained about the maritime border issues and some of the efforts that the CSOs have carried out in fighting for this maritime border issue
- Questions /Comments :
 - o How much percentage of Christians is there in Timor-Leste? What is the composition of other religions such as Islam?
 - We have less than 5% of Muslim citizens. The first Prime Minister of Timor-Leste is a Muslim.
 - o Can you share more information about CSOs in Timor-Leste in terms of numbers and contribution?
 - o What is the transparency report?
 - We have good practices by the Ministry of Finance, as there are transparency initiatives by both CSOs and Government. For example, the government and oil companies have meetings regularly and reports on revenue and expenses of companies are produced annually.
 - o I would like to hear more about the social audit. Do you face threats from climate change?
 - The Prime Minister mentioned about one type of social accountability mechanism. CSOs decided to take the opportunity to bring it to the next level, where we called for a signature of a MOU between CSOs and government. The MOU was sent and for now all

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- tools for social audit are ready .It is moving on and looking for more collaboration with more ministers to bring into effect a mechanism.
- On the issue of climate change, Timor-Leste is an island country that continually faces climate change threats, but there are not many NGO's working on this issue. We are trying to promote local knowledge to advocate for climate change in the local community and schools and at the Government level
 - Timor-Leste and Vietnam as similar trouble. What do the CSOs do to help the Government? Example of issue is GONGO's. As we are not a part of them, we cannot contribute to a discussion.
 - What do you do in Timor-Leste?
 - I have to say in Timor-Leste we do not have GONGO, we have basket of CS funds but this does not control CS. The CS is not fully trusting of the government on boundaries but CSOs' eye is on national sovereignty and always watching the government.
 - Any more space to discuss Timor-Leste and membership level? Issues are prospects for membership?
 - For the membership, three technical committees set up on each of the pillars where all of the reports are completed. Timor-Leste has an embassy in each country, which is a requirement. All that is needed to be prepared is done. As for now leaders need to go through reports to make the decision.
 - Timor-Leste has been part of APF officially since 2004.
 - We saw a specific issue on national vs. migrant workers. Want to know more about this issue
 - Talking about concerns that migrant workers get paid better than nationals, we need to strike a balance between the ASEAN communities.
 - Higher education in Timor-Leste? Can you give a brief outline on this please? Can you comment on state of academic freedom in engaging some CS issues?
 - We have too many universities with very low quality. Examples of problems; difficulty in obtaining accreditation, lack of suitable human resources, problem of transforming learning into a reality of Timor-Leste itself.
 - Two official languages in Timor-Leste and two working language (English and Indonesian) where this can be a real challenge for the development of the curriculum
 - We have one semi-public and six private universities. Sometimes it is seen as too many but we do need them. Every year we have 15,000-20,000 students graduating from high school, in 5 years = 100,000 with no jobs and nowhere to go. Universities become the middle line for students to go to.
 - On the part of Government policy what is the level of development?
 - Government inclusive policies – government has established these but there are challenges in implementation. The civil society is always questioning these policies as some don't really prepare people to be part of the development processes – provide cash etc. for vulnerable groups which destroys mentality of government to provide social services

4. Session 3: Understanding Thailand

Speaker: Srisuwan Kuankajorn, Chiranuch Premchaiporn, Chalida Tajaroen suk

Moderator: Suon Bunsak

- Srisuwan Kuankajorn talked about issues in Thailand. The issues that were discussed by him were crisis in economics of Thailand, constitution that has been drafted and will be implemented in August and the military regime. Some of the key points from his sharing
 - Economic prospect in Thailand now is not very good. For the past many months the hope from the community of business people is to look forward to the increase of tourism to drive the

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- economy forward but this has not been the case. They wanted martial law lifted for tourism (lifted in March) but in lifting it, they invoked section 44 of interim constitution which made things worse.
- Economic development policies today are biased towards big economic investments. Big projects currently is the pipeline but at the expense of natural resources, environment and rights of local people.
 - Chiranuch Premchaiporn explained about the impact of the oppressive regime and the matters of concern in the draft constitution. Some of the key points mentioned :
 - 4 points in draft constitution that are of concern :
 - 50/250 persons in senate will be appointed and 6 seats reserved for junta
 - Increase the power of the senate
 - Free education for 12 years. Current draft constitution will only go to junior high school instead of right through to end of high school
 - Privilege to protect Buddhism – can use this for people who criticize Buddhism
 - Bringing media back under state control
 - Chalida Tajaroensuk shared briefly of the country's political situation/draft constitution. She also explained on the advantages of ASEAN. Some of the key points mentioned:
 - All the power of the country will be in the hands of some group where this situation will be worse than Myanmar.
 - Peace talks in the south of Thailand. At the moment, conflict and peace talks are going on.
 - ASEAN is a safe platform to talk, try to be part of government implementing three pillars
 - Questions / Comments :
 - Any social media suppression in Thailand? Underground – Thailand has good emotional advertisement so CSOs promote this?
 - Yes there is a crackdown, number of ordinary people have been arrested. Good space for dissidents to operate.
 - What is the most burning issue of Thailand in economic development and what can CSOs do?
 - People have many problems right now, income decreased; many companies closed down, big problem dealing with drugs and illegal trade, but the government is not so much concerned with these issues. We are trying to create a farmer network and do marketing for them, grassroots economic development for them.
 - After hearing the speakers and getting to know the situation regarding to Thailand, as a CSO in this country, what are you're feeling about collaboration and recognizing of CSOs' presence in country? What is your biggest concern? What is expected after overcoming transition?
 - Government and CSOs cannot collaborate with military officers but there are good officers working at the implementation level. At ASEAN we can do a lot and there is space to work with good officers.
 - It is difficult because we work underground where we have to distribute information from house to house especially to those that don't understand the constitution.
 - We can still do something as CSOs. We just have to be a little more careful.
 - Last week my organization held a press conference that criticized China about releasing fluid into the Mekong River. The military guys came and took photos.
 - Many people have experienced the values of freedom of expression and people realize how much this has to be maintained.
 - CSOs need to do more research.
 - Speech/talks concerning Buddhism in Thailand bringing bad situation. Please give more opinion around this?
 - Buddhism is a sensitive topic for Thailand. In south of Thailand, the majority of citizens are Muslim. To put Buddhism at national level is not right as we should respect other

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- religions. Monks themselves do not agree with this decision.
 - I am a Buddhist but not a good Buddhist. I do not support the move to have this protected because we are a secular state.
 - Thailand is controlled by military and Vietnam is controlled by a communist party but Thailand is freer than Vietnam. Can CSOs in Thailand work together to make a difference? Cannot connect in Thailand?
 - Front page of Bangkok Post today – can you please comment on this? What does this mean and how should CS respond?
 - It is about giving power to rank of Latin to arrest anybody; it is very dangerous for people at that level to make this decision. We need an international organization to raise this issue and help us. We cannot bring up this issue right now.
 - Thanks Phil for raising this issue as this is a new issue. Very dangerous to not monitor this as it gives military a lot of power. There are many types of lawa which they can just bring up any issue and use the different laws against us.

5. Session 4: Thematic Discussion 1 : Engagement Strategies' for CSOs

Speakers: Atnike Sigiro, Johanna Son

Moderator: Wathshlah Naidu

- Atnike Sigiro shared on the difficulty in trying to engage with ASEAN as engagement requires accreditation. She also talked about the openness of some ASEAN Stakeholders in engaging the civil society as compared to others and how to strategically engage with ASEAN. Refer to Annex 2 for more details
- Johanna Son talked about engagement with ASEAN from the medias' perspective in terms of how and what the civil society can help the media in telling their stories. Refer to Annex 3 for more details
- Questions / Comments
 - Current research on engagement with ASEAN. How is the APF supposed to serve stakeholders?
 - APF is a good space to discuss issues. APF has been improving in recognizing principles, which are open for everyone to participate. I can see this grow to a positive direction. We are improving but need to get recognition from all ASEAN member countries to improve more. There isn't a simple recipe where the APF will solve everything. The point is that we meet and try to better understand ASEAN together. On a daily basis, we need to do our own work.
 - Can you please share more about the accreditation process with AICHR? Are others applying and what are the rates of success?
 - For the application to AICHR accreditation, people can send submissions by 4 April. For Forum-Asia we are still in reflection in terms of what do we learn from applying. In the previous application, those applications that were rejected were HR organizations who had given strong critiques to ASEAN/AICHR on human rights issues in the region. In Forum-Asia's view ASEAN does not view women and children as a sensitive issue but in our view it contains some of the worst human rights violations. CRC Asia does good work and has been accepted.
 - For now, we are deciding on how to strategically reply to rejection. It seems AICHR is not ready to work with strong HR organizations in the region. The reason given for rejecting our application is Forum-Asia's vision is not in line with ASEAN's vision. ACHIR is much pressured by governments so they cannot work independently like other Human Rights Commissions do around the world (EU, UN etc.).
 - How can organizations be more involved and participating in the regional steering committee?
 - Being a committee member is a small part of APF work. My understanding is that no one is to be excluded at this point.

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- The state owned civil society is not entitled to be represented here. We have to raise the hands of the suppressed people. We have to return the responsibility and rights of people. Can you please help us regain our independence?
- Will there be more challenges in Timor-Leste joining and how can CSO's strategize here?
- What does accreditation mean?
 - AICHR accreditation. Since 2009 AICHR have never responded to actual HR situations in the region. CS been asking for responses. The Accreditation process guidelines say that if you have accreditation you have more privileges but in practice this is superficial as there is no assurance you can submit cases.

6. Session 5: Issues in ASEAN

Speakers: Dr. James Gomes, Emerlynne Gil, Mark Pascual

Moderator: Wanun Permpibul

- Dr. James Gomes shared about education issues that are happening in ASEAN. Some key points shared:
 - The education situation in ASEAN is similar to Timor-Leste where a lot of public intellectual activities being pushed outside the university
 - We need to bear in mind the inbound students to the region, the kind of values they bring into the institutes and what impact it has on the curriculum. There is large influx of students from China. There are at least 48 Confucius institutions in Thailand.
 - If we want to reproduce ourselves as CS we need to engage with tertiary institutions.
- Emerlynne Gil talked on key issues that have wide implications, impact on human rights defenders and the increase use of restrictive legislation. Some key points that were shared:
 - Countries using laws that are meant to address national security, on citizens to restrict their rights. The language of national security is being used to attack minorities e.g. Indonesia.
 - If CSOs' do not offer a counter-narrative that responds to acts of terrorism it must be countered by human rights protection. We will then see more restrictions being imposed on CS
- Mark Pascual shared about climate justice and people's rights. Refer to Annex 4 for more details.
- Questions / Comments
 - We have an underdevelopment of teaching on social issues. As a new member of APF, we would like to focus on the low levels and grassroots organizations helping the Vietnamese people and not the government controlled organizations or people.
 - Two issues missing on the table. Looking at ASEAN itself, 60% of people with no employment contracts. ASEAN is also struggling to come out with a legal framework for migrant workers where domestic workers are excluded and informal sector is excluded. Unions are weak. The basic rights of the workers in ASEAN are not recognized nor are they seen as human beings. There are seen as foreign 'cash cows'.
 - Growing international inequality in ASEAN. For example Singapore vs Myanmar, it is 60 times different. Why are we not talking about this? Growing gap among the people is not addressed in this forum when it should be addressed.
 - Often one of the missing components is the gender related dimension. COP21 preamble mentions gender equality but does not translate down to operational provisions. Share your thoughts how we can use existing frameworks on how we can engage on this area in this region? How can we bring the voices of gender into this?
 - COP aims for 1.5 and we are at 0.87. People are already dying so we need to stop now.
 - Can you share about the common impact of climate change in the ASEAN region and what is ASEAN's solution to deal with those issues?
 - Key issues: sea level rise, extreme weather events.
 - Solutions: various initiatives being done in the region but these are not enough. There is a need to assert the idea of historical responsibility and capabilities.

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- When listening about human rights, thinking about 20 years ago, ASEAN was a sign of international human rights but today still human rights violations happen everywhere in ASEAN. We are hearing about many issues. How is CS influencing today? To the stakeholders in every single country? I want to know about this climate justice and how we can move forward.
 - Role of CSO is to give a counter-narrative. Opportunities for academics to share counter-narratives are often pushed out.
- What are the sorts of human rights issues that ASEAN CSO's need to advocate? Past HR violations? Unfinished struggles. What is the role of Lawyers and Judges Associations on this issue?
 - There is always the shrinking space for debate and for expressing ones opinion in every country. There should be a collective concern for CSO's.
 - All over S/E Asia mechanisms to access justice are getting fewer and fewer. This is where ICJ judges and lawyers come in to fight it out on the ground.
 - Real and growing concern is climate refugees which are real concern for ASEAN as some of ASEAN countries are the most vulnerable to this.
- People living in Mekong region are facing a lot of problems. I hope that water security should be one of the issues in ASEAN where CSO in different countries can build network to counter this issue together.
- What is the role of Universities in promoting ASEAN? How can we make the link?
 - There has been an evolution in the study of the region by universities. In the last few years, there are a variety of universities that have introduced ASEAN studies mostly for undergraduates. Most scholarships offered primarily focus on courses that could help the state or the government (foreign policy etc.) but there are some that relate to business. The ones that suffer the most are the ones dealing with critical issues such as human rights etc. It is these people who pick up these issues who are pushed out. It is at risk and these kinds of things will need to find an independent space.

7. Session 6: Engaging Stakeholders: Is ASEAN Community in Effect?

Speakers: H.E.Amb.Jakkrit Srivali, Dr.Yong Chanthalangsy, Katia Chirizzi

Moderator: Soe Min Than

- H.E. Amb.Jakkrit Srivali spoke about ASEAN being a community and how we have changed or aspire to change. Some key points that he mentioned:
 - We have changed as a people where we realized that we cannot keep doing the same thing and expect different results. Results embodied in ASEAN vision 2015, 2025 and the Blueprints but the documents are quite broad and aspirational. Why? Process in which these were drafted was a largely a top down affair. We did engage with CS but was not enough.
 - ASEAN is not a perfect organization. It has a legacy of being top down, chummy and not too open to views from the public but that is changing. We now have a 30 minute interface with leaders per year. It is not much and still in need of change. There is a need for closer engagement between CSO's and governments of ASEAN at the working level so that concerns can be integrated/brought on board.
 - Thailand did make some first steps in engaging with CSO's during their chairmanship in 2009. There was a 2 hour dialogue which we need to bring back and make it regular and institutionalized. Foreign Ministry has been reaching out to Thai CSO's.
- Dr. Yong Chanthalangsy spoke about how building ASEAN community is a journey and not a destination. He also informed the group of the decisions made for the Lao PDR Chairmanship. Some key points mentioned :
 - The theme of AEC : "Turning vision into reality" with the 8 priority areas : Implementation of ASEAN community vision 2025, Trade facilitation, SME development , Tourism development, *"Expanding Peoples' Solidarity for a Just and Inclusive ASEAN Community"*

- Decent work promotion, Narrowing the gap of development between ASEAN countries ,
Promoting ASEAN connectivity and Preservation of rich cultural heritage
- We all dream to have engagement with ASEAN. This is why the ASEAN leaders have adopted an important document which shows their willingness to get the CSO's engaged in ASEAN. In order to do this we must have rules, regulations and guidelines. Hence, rules of engagement have been adopted. Basic rules:
 - All those CSO's who want to engage ASEAN have to formulate its will in written form to submit for consideration. Have to abide by rules. Respect basic principle:
 - Respect of sovereignty, national identity of ASEAN Member States
 - There is principle of non-interference in ASEAN affairs
 - Respect the right of every member state to lead its own existence.
 - Respect for different cultures, religions of people in ASEAN
 - ASEAN may engage with entity that supports ASEAN charter.
 - Katia Chirizzi shared on the idea of inclusion of human rights in the plan of UN and the interest in collaborating with ASEAN. Some key points mentioned :
 - ASEAN 2025 vision is a vision that commits to uphold common values in the spirit of diversity etc. and emphasis on tolerance.
 - OHCHR continually endorses full engagement of ASEAN with CSOs. CSOs are the key to any regional mechanism. CSOs will not be able to engage meaningfully unless their role is formally recognized.
 - CSOs engagement needs to be institutionalized to overcome the concern of lack of engagement with AICHR
 - Questions / Comments :
 - Reason why APF in Timor-Leste is subject to disappearance of Sombath, and the many issues concerning ASEAN people were not allowed to be discussed in Laos. How do you ensure development without having human rights development
 - I was a war correspondent; I know your situation well. I don't know if you were born then. Comparing the situation now it is a paradise compared to before. For us this is not a matter of Sombath, this is a matter of justice. If Sombath is your only concern in the final APF document, why do you not mention about all the forced disappearances throughout ASEAN? All the killing in Myanmar? Why not the whole plane missing in Malaysia? You should include all in the APF document. We are only asking for equal treatment. We are still searching for Sombath. Freedom of discussion issues not true. Hydro dam in Laos – success, thanks to public consultation (3 layers). Laos has great record of public consultation. We care about what our people think. We will continue to narrow down the gap.
 - Timor-Leste is a open and democratic country, this means that APF in Timor-Leste means a space for everybody. I do not see the agenda for Timor-Leste accession so do we have to wait for Philippines chairmanship?
 - Timor-Leste is already part of ASEAN, part of APF since 2004. We are just nearby; I don't know why it takes so long to be an ASEAN member state. We hope this is in the agenda. We are looking forward to seeing our Laos colleagues and CSO's in Timor-Leste
 - I note your welcome. Note that Laos is among the 9 countries supporting fully Timor-Leste to join ASEAN. How long to join? I do not know how long. We are respectful of the consensus building where all countries have equal voices. We see a positive trend that will eventually lead to Timor-Leste being a full ASEAN member. Please keep up your optimism

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- Over the years we have been submitting APF documents to member states after meetings, last year we submitted prior to APF to try and have a dialogue at the meeting. Are these recommendations discussed? We don't want this to be lost.
 - In the APF document you have to ask yourself, how come and where is the consideration? If we have to draw a lesson from 10 interfaces with leaders:
 - First meeting – all leaders/CSO's go but there is finger pointing
 - Second meeting – reduced from previous meeting
 - Third meeting – reduced from previous meeting
 - Fourth meeting – why can Thailand host the summit twice?
 - Fifth meeting – only few leaders met CSO's and duration of meeting reduced from 30 minutes to 15 minutes
 - Sixth meeting – Interface can only discuss single issue.
 - Seventh – no meeting
 - Eighth – no meeting
 - Ninth – no meeting
 - Tenth – no meeting
 - There are big disputes between CSO's. Committees should stick to the rules on how to be positive and be more respectful to ASEAN values and by doing so they will have successful meetings with ASEAN leaders.
 - Issues that CSO's are dealing with over rights, different interpretations etc. The venue for resolving these disputes will not be in ASEAN itself but in the domestic context. No more finger pointing or dragging the leaders into the woodshed. There is a need for a process that has context. Many leaders are afraid of NGO's because NGO's have been quite assertive and aggressive and this is a different language than what leaders are used to. States need to listen to CSO's more and CSO's need to understand the constraints that states work under. It will take time before everyone is comfortable. Develop a sense that we are working towards the same goal. We all need to understand constraints in ASEAN. Consensus is a somewhat necessary evil for keeping ASEAN together. These rules are needed to keep us together given the different contexts etc.
- What is OHCHR's strategy in engaging with CSO's in region dealing with ASEAN?
 - ASEAN strategy high in Bangkok office, engaged on many processes. Meaningful engagement and participation of CSOs should not be a means to an end but to ensure the voices of everyone including vulnerable groups are addressed and protected. Strategy is not a unilateral process and would appreciate any feedback or issues. Let us know bilaterally or through other avenues what we can do to strengthen the space.
- Listening with interest and amusement also. Statements that they are willing to engage with CSO's. Meeting in Vienna UNCA. Encourage more engagement.
- Interface is not the only way to deal with leaders. Worked in ASEAN Secretariat for 5 years on matters related to HIV/Aids. Built to bring this issue up to the ASEAN summit and this has come on the agenda. We open up military camps in Cambodia to teach about HIV. Now when go to brothels they use condoms so they don't die. This show there are other ways to make a difference without interface.
- Don't just look at the leader's level but look to the working level.

8. Session 7: Theme, Objectives, Principles and Programme of APF 2016. Modalities of Committee Work Planning (Programme, Media, Drafting)

Moderator: RSC/NOC

- Timor-Leste proposal: "Towards a Dynamic, Solidarity and United ASEAN Community" to help us focus *"Expanding Peoples' Solidarity for a Just and Inclusive ASEAN Community"*

- Government: "Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community"
- Group suggestions:
 - i. "Towards a Dynamic ASEAN Community United by Peoples' Solidarity"
 - ii. "Strengthening Cooperation for a United ASEAN Community"
 - iii. "Expanding People's Unity for a Just ASEAN"
 - Would rather not use the word unity or united.
 - iv. "Towards Dynamic Solidarity and United ASEAN Community"
 - v. "Towards a Dynamic ASEAN Peoples Solidarity and Inclusive Community"
 - vi. "A Dynamic ASEAN Peoples Solidarity and Inclusive Community"
 - We can see the purpose is for a better ASEAN community and we need to do something to achieve the purpose.
 - The words dynamic with the official name of the ASEAN summit 2016. Suggestion we should not use dynamic and use other words instead.
 - vii. "Expanding Peoples' Solidarity for a Just and Inclusive ASEAN Community"
 - I think we need to explain the background why we chose this theme. Expanding brings idea that Timor-Leste as ASEAN people. Like the word 'inclusive' as this brings in people who have been overlooked. Just ASEAN is also a strong word
 - viii. "Expanding People's Solidarity for a Just ASEAN"
- Final Decision : **"Expanding Peoples' Solidarity for a Just and Inclusive ASEAN Community"**

9. Session 8: Budget planning of APF2016

Moderator: RSC/NOC

- For now the Timor-Leste NOC has managed to get USD150,000 from the Timor-Leste government
- We have talked to the German government and Sweden SIDA. They seem positive in funding the regional meeting in Lao PDR and APF in August.
- Discussion on receiving money from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are as follows:
 - o ADB is trying to get involved in APF and this would give a negative impact
 - o ADB providing technical assistance to Timor-Leste on accession to ASEAN.
 - o I'm sure there are a lot of grey areas, slippery slopes, ADB funds will go to MOFA then it's actually MOFA fund so it's a different thing all together. Concern is direct funds from ADB.
 - o I'm working directly in ADB on environmental areas. They are the targets of our campaign. This is not a grey area, not allowed to engage. ADB should be completely out.
 - We need to understand about ADB and WB. They are the ones who do constructive projects in the region. ADB have GMS plan which many Cambodian people are campaigning against. They have not been able to respond to questions from local people who have been impacted. ADB is an extreme actor. The issue is that if ADB can claim they support APF then I need to leave, I have no choice.
 - o Decision : **NO to ADB**
- Discussion on receiving money from private sector are as follows:
 - o Responsibility for us all to understand why we say 'no'. There is no black and white on all organizations. CSOs need some more guidance and education on this.
 - o Private sector is usually based on the entity.
 - Decision: **If there is private sector support from big players then we will bring this back to the group.**
- Questions / Comments :
 - o For those who would want to do funding at home, is there a guideline on possible funding sources? Negative list?
 - There is no such list but that is why we are cautious around ADB funding
 - o APF Timor-Leste is a good chance to bring APF back to the roots. Make it more people centered
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where we can explore possibility of staying with the communities so that the money goes back to the people rather than to the hotels. How can we make it more simplified so more of an exposure and not just a series of workshops. NGO people getting used to staying in hotels and we can lose touch with the issues we work for such as poverty etc.

- What I have heard is that the Timor-Leste Government is contributing, German and Sweden contributes then we will have enough. The budget is too high. I've noticed things that we have not been spending on previously such as fully paid secretariat. To me most of our work is voluntary and supported by our organizations. Why do we have two budgets for two Secretariats and budgets for coordinators when it is meant to be voluntary? For NGO's who are part of a movement we have been doing this as volunteers but not as careers. These salaries are contributing to the high amounts.
 - \$450,000 does not include the Secretariat costs. Everyone in Timor-Leste is doing work without money.
 - There is a proposal of an alternative ways to host. Local homestay will be plan B.
 - Total amount \$950,000USD is a huge amount and almost half due to Timor-Leste. Last year Malaysia's budget was high but managed to host with around \$300,000USD.

10. Programme of ACSC/APF2016

Moderator: RSC/NOC

- Refer to Annex 5 for draft programme of ACSC/APF2016 drafted by NOC Timor-Leste
- Questions / Comments :
 - Thanks to Timor-Leste for planning. I think we need to take a step back and the committee needs to step back and see if this is the style we want to follow.
 - Explain more about community site visit please? Is half a day enough?
 - Half a day will be enough
 - This presentation is made of what has been discussed and prepared by NOC, at the moment we don't have any committee members who in previous practice are the ones who will meet and discuss.
 - We need thorough discussion on strategy. For example, I would not suggest 3 days of workshops in Timor-Leste. There we can concentrate more on regional issues as it is a waste of resources to concentrate on workshops. Instead more workshops of APF to be concentrated after Timor-Leste as not everyone can afford to go there frankly
 - Thinking of the Timor participants who would want to be part of the workshops. We could conduct workshops prior but the Timor people will lose out. How do we merge the two issues of Timor people missing out and people being unable to go to Timor?
 - We made the decision in November and we knew the costs therefore this is nothing new. We will take note and strategize.

11. Session 9:Statement dynamics for future ACSC/APF

Moderator: RSC/NOC

- The purpose of the statement is to have a means of communication to ASEAN governments and the world about the gathering that CSOs are making
- Propose to give emphasis to celebrating Timor-Leste in drafting the statement and submitting the statement ahead to the governments
- Questions / Comments :
 - The statement is part of a strategy. If the intention is to submit a statement prior to APF, given that statement is usually an outcome of APF, what will the 2016 statement look like? What is the call? What do we hope to achieve?

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- In 2015, we discussed the strategy and decided to change. ASEAN foreign ministers decided to receive our statement, which was good. This approach gave governments time to read and respond.
- Decisions : **To have a statement prior to APF**

12. Session 11: Logistics of secretariat, meetings, mode of communication, documentation, engagement process and security issues

Moderator: RSC/NOC

- Questions / Comments :
 - Please be mindful of accessibility for the disabled
 - We are just building up everything and there some limited views on the world. Some buildings may not have disability access, not because they don't want to but because they don't know about it.
 - Please let us know if there are attendee's with disabilities, we will assist as much as we can
 - Security issues?
 - Timor people are friendly and we have talked to the police. They would be able to help us with the security issues such as drunk youths loitering in the town
 - Halal food?
 - Yes
 - Do we need visa and is there a possibility of waiving the visa fee?
 - Visa on arrival - \$35 and tax \$10
 - Thanks for the suggestion, please do the same for us when we come.
 - Average cost of alternative accommodation?
 - Team has identified accommodation. Price ranging from \$20 - \$150 per night.
 - Local driver?
 - Will provide for the participants
 - Possible to stay with locals?
 - We discussed a lot about possible ways to stay in Timor. Homestay and questions of security. We don't know each person's preference so colleagues may offer to stay with them.
 - Dress code/code of behavior?
 - No dress code in Timor in CS environment. Sometimes we have to be aware of situations and adjust accordingly. Don't be naked
 - Weather?
 - Does not rain often. We have 3 seasons which are hot, hotter and hottest
 - What gifts to give and not to give?
 - There is no issue in this matter. It's just a practice we have that if you are offered food, it is always good to take some
 - Any individual you cannot speak about in your country?
 - No restrictions on this just are responsible for what you say.
 - Children like to have their picture but do not take pictures of a disabled person on the street. We don't have many disabled persons on the street but it is good not to take pictures of them.
 - We have three communication companies. Price of phone calls and Internet quite good. For calling 20c per minute.
 - The process will be in English, if you have difficulty in English, please come with a translator

13. Session 10: Modality of FCAA Research: Open discussion

Moderator: Corinna Lopa

"Expanding Peoples' Solidarity for a Just and Inclusive ASEAN Community"

- Corinna shared about the FCAA research basis that will be carried out this year. Refer to Annex 6 for more details
- Questions / Comments :
 - o To the RSC in the spirit of transparency, rarely meet as a whole and when we meet some are there regularly but some are not, hear things back home and sometimes the messages are not clear. Basic questions to help up level off. How did this survey and research come about? Why is it Corina? Who decided and what was the mandate of the people who decided?
 - By way of process we can never meet all the time. If you have not heard then that is a failure of your national/regional committee member. You fall under someone who represents you.
 - This was something that came out of last year. Money has been put aside to put one person. The choosing of the one person was opened up to the RSC. There were submissions of 6/7 names of researchers and online voting process among RSC who chose Corina to be the researcher.
 - Any time you have doubt then please check with your RSC member.
 - o Timor is not part of the research but I see they have been engaging so I want to understand that.
 - This is engagement with the ASEAN Governments.
 - In the FCAA 2014 Timor did submit a report and although I won't go there I hope to have a section on what they have done.
 - o Should this be published for the future? What happens when we divide ourselves? Cambodia splits into three meetings? We can learn lessons from publicizing.

14. AOB

- Unable to understand yesterday, wife of Vietnamese Human Rights Lawyer who was recently arrested, currently in pre-trial detention and was arrested for anti-state propaganda but in reality just a voice for human rights. Second time he was in prison, arrested four year ago. I'm glad that his wife is safely here to raise awareness about her husband's case.
 - o My husband is in detention, human rights advocate since 1990. In 1990 my husband came over to Germany and saw the Berlin wall broken down and was enlightened into what was democracy. He came back to Vietnam and studied law and became a lawyer. In 1997 he nominated himself for Parliament to raise the voice of the people. In 2000 he officially and publically showed himself as an activist of human rights and freedom of religion in Vietnam. Opened a lot of classes to educate and introduce what is democracy and human rights for the people in Vietnam. My husband has protected a lot of people who have been suppressed and had their land taken by the government. He wrote a lot of articles to write about the violations of human rights in Vietnam. He has good connection with a lot of government in the world. He has been arrested twice. First arrest was a house arrest for four years, now got arrested again just four months after release. Seriously beaten by Vietnamese security and in the wintertime they undress him and take everything off him. Luckily he survived due to help from friends and the week after this he was arrested for the second time. He has been beaten up so many times in trying to protect people's human rights. They treat the family very badly. Now my husband is in detention and what I want you to do is to raise the voice of what is happening to my husband. He was detained and has no right to see a lawyer or his family. I have no idea about his situation now. We need your help to promote human rights in Vietnam. The Government is saying bad things about my husband and what he was doing. The Vietnamese rep is not on the same side as my husband. Please help my husband to have the right to practice his religion.
- Share a story in Philippines - This morning, the farmers were barricading the national food authority office. They were violently dispersed by police, where one person was shot dead and others seriously injured. I want to call everyone here to solidarity.

"Expanding Peoples' Solidarity for a Just and Inclusive ASEAN Community"

- I want to announce we are working on a project on a baseline to understand how limited children's participation is in ASEAN region. Please encourage children's groups to participate. (CRC Asia)
- Research on measuring peoples engagement within the ASEAN process – survey to measure stakeholder's engagement. There is a link behind, please come to me with any questions (The Habibie Center)