

Call for Civil Society's Participation & Call for Proposal for Thematic Workshops

Theme:

“Advancing ASEAN Peoples' Solidarity toward sustainable peace, development, justice and democratization”

As Myanmar/Burma will chair ASEAN in 2014, civil society in Myanmar, together with other regional organisations has decided to organize an ASEAN Civil Society Conference (ACSC)/ASEAN Peoples' Forum (APF) on March ..., 2014 in Yangon. The date has been identified with the purpose of mirroring the official process of the 20th ASEAN Summit that will be conducted on May ..., 2014.

The ACSC/APF is a space for democratic and constructive debates on ideas, formulation of proposals for ASEAN, exchange of experiences among civil society and peoples' movements, expanding networks across issues in the region, and conducting joint actions, especially with respect to community building processes. This year, reflecting the major concerns of the ASEAN people towards the Association, ACSC/APF 2014 has chosen the theme “Advancing ASEAN Peoples' Solidarity toward sustainable peace, development, justice and democratization”

ACSC/APF is an annual gathering of civil society which was started in 2005 during Malaysia's chairmanship. It was followed by the Philippines in 2006, Singapore in 2007, Thailand in 2009, Vietnam in 2010 and Indonesia in 2011, Cambodia in 2012 and Brunei in 2013. At the end of each Forum, civil society representatives prepare a collective statement and recommendations for ASEAN member states. This gathering is in line with the spirit of ASEAN Charter to make the Association relevant to ordinary people's livelihoods.

With 68 Myanmar representatives and 34 regional representatives present during the meeting, the National Organizing Committee is so far comprised of 73 member organizations from Myanmar civil society. They are working together with regional friends to organize an inclusive ACSC/APF that will cover a wide range of themes including peace, development, justice and democratization.

The Objective/s of APF/ACSC 2014:

1. Strengthen diverse regional and national voices to advance ASEAN peoples' solidarity for sustainable peace, development, justice and democratization.
2. Support the role of Myanmar civil society in the country's democratization, development, peace and national reconciliation
3. Accelerate inclusive ASEAN people-to-people processes to achieve peace, security, and economic, social, environmental and climate justice for all, including migrant workers and the stateless and marginalized communities.

4. Expand learning and understanding of the different processes and political developments of ASEAN and its members, including peoples' struggles for human rights and self-determination in Myanmar.
5. Assert civil society's role in ASEAN community-building and key processes including the upcoming review of the ASEAN Charter and Community Blueprints and TOR of ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

During APF/ACSC 2014, side events such as exhibitions, camps, etc, will also be encouraged. Each organization may host not more than two workshops and the fee for each workshop is 200 USD. The output of the workshops will be a statement, targeted to be incorporated into the Joint CSOs statement of APF/ACSC 2014.

During ACSC/APF 2014, participants will discuss issues ranging from peace, development, economic empowerment of the people, human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, and democratization, etc.

As many thematic issues will be raised in the parallel workshops during the ACSC/APF event, a call for proposals to organize thematic workshops during ACSC/APF is very important step of our process towards the organizing of ACSC/APF.

Important Date

Event	Date
ACSC/APF	March 2014
Thematic workshops day	Second day of conference
Deadline for the submission of thematic workshop proposal	11th January ,2014
Decision on the shortlisted thematic workshops	15 th February ,2014
Final decision on thematic workshops	28 th February,2014

Proposal Guidelines

To be considered for the ACSC/APF 2014 workshop day, the proposal must meet the following criteria:

1. Must reflect ASEAN's people regional concerns
2. The workshop convenor is responsible for the costs of the workshop, the equipment needed and translation into English & other ASEAN languages if needed

3. The workshops must be gender-balanced for speakers & presenters as well as including gender perspectives in terms of issues addressed and presentation of content of panellists/speakers
4. There is a minimum of ... participants for each workshop
5. Allocate at least 2/3 of the time of the workshop (total: 2-2.5 hours) for people-participation, using the approaches and methods technique for participator workshops, rather than allocating the entire workshop to presentations, in order to accommodate more participation from various community voices.
6. Be able to pay workshop fees of 200\$ by

What your Proposal Application Must Include

1. Concept note (including the issue addressed, why it is important to the ASEAN people, recommendations to ASEAN leaders)
2. Names and positions of panellists
3. Language being used
4. Agenda
5. Workshop Title
6. Contact persons

Application must be no more than 2 A4 pages in length.

Themes for the ACSC/APF 2014

Workshop clusters and issues were deliberated and adopted as follows:

- **Cluster I: Peace**
 1. Challenges in peace and conflict management and security building
 2. Ethnic/Indigenous rights and self-determination
 3. Education including education for learning to live together
 4. Forced Migration (IDPs, refugees, stateless persons)
- **Cluster II: Justice and Human Rights (Social protection, youth, women, labor trafficking, etc.)**
 1. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
 2. Environment and climate change

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3. Women's human rights, including participation in decision making
 4. Human trafficking
 5. Endangered dialects, languages, culture and identity
 6. Challenges faced by children that includes girl child issues: Promoting and securing Girl Child protection
 7. Rights of people with disabilities at the regional level: Creating opportunities for disabled people and PLHIV, including women with disabilities and all affected person
 8. HIV/AIDS issues in ASEAN
 9. SOGI and LGBT
 10. Caring for aged people
 11. Abolishing the death penalty
 12. ASEAN Consumer Rights
 13. Workers' Rights, including migrant workers and workers in informal sector (sex workers, domestic workers etc) , and Trade Unions
 14. The legal and justice system, access to justice and the rule of law
 15. ASEAN HR Mechanisms and Instruments (ASEAN Charter, AICHR,ACWC, AMCW etc.)
- **Cluster III: Development**
 1. Natural resources exploitation impact/ extractive industries
 2. Rural development
 3. Financial Infrastructure Development and Development Financing
 4. ASEAN urban threats
 5. Natural disasters
 6. Energy
 7. Rights of land, housing and property, including land confiscation
 8. Entrepreneurship
 9. Green and Clean Economy/ Solidarity Economy
 10. Narcotic Drug Issues
 11. Trans-national Epidemics

12. Education including education for learning to live together

13. Corporate accountability and business and human rights

- **Cluster IV: Democratization**

1. Youth Challenges in ASEAN including youth engagement in leadership and governance

2. Grassroots democracy

3. Democratization

4. Good governance and Anti-corruption

5. Free and Fair Elections in ASEAN

6. Women's human rights, including participation in decision making/politics

7. Human rights

8. CSO - State partnership/Civil Society participation in ASEAN

9. Reform for an effective ASEAN Secretariat

Send to

ACSC/APF Program Committee:

Please also send a copy to the ACSC/APF Secretariat: apfsecretariat2014@gmail.com

Any Questions?

Please contact the national and regional Program Committee: dr.may.shi.sho@gmail.com

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN MYANMAR!