

# **ASEAN CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE/ ASEAN PEOPLES FORUM (ACSC/APF) 2017 CONVERGENCE SPACE ON CORPORATE GREED AND POWER**

## **WEBINAR SERIES ON CORPORATE POWER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA OCTOBER 2017**

### **BACKGROUND**

For 2017, the thematic convergence spaces for the ACSC/ APF provides an opportunity for organizations, groups and networks working on interlinked issues to come together and collectively discuss, analyses and advance a regional campaign.

The ACSC/ APF Convergence Space Corporate Greed and Power in the Southeast Asia is an opportunity for regional and national organisations to come together and call much needed attention to the growing power of corporations and international financial institutions in pushing for regional economic integration that dispossess the ASEAN peoples of their resources, undermine their human rights, and diminish (if not totally cut off) their access to essential services. Since these processes are generally agreed and finalised without consultation and consent from the people, these have resulted to:

- lack of accountability, transparency, and democratic participation in the planning and implementation of the AEC;
- increasing threats against activists (or human rights defenders) working for economic and environmental justice; while
- Governments and corporations' continue to disregard peoples' rights while there is an absence of robust safeguard policies and redress mechanisms for families and communities who are victims of development aggression.

Given this alarming context the Convergence Space adds its voice to the resounding call for a just, equitable and sustainable development at the global, regional and national levels. The convergence space has identified the following focus issues for ACSC/APF 2017 where corporate power is most felt and peoples' struggles are most critical: (1) RCEP and ASEAN Free Trade Agenda; (2) Agro-TNC and food Sovereignty; (3) Climate change and financing and (4) Extractive Industries.

### **WEBINAR SERIES**

In preparation for the ACSC/ APF 2017 that is happening on 10-14 November 2017, a webinar series is initiated by the Convergence Space on Corporate Greed and Power for its' members, as well as for a wider ASEAN Peoples' Forum (APF). The webinar series hopes to surface analyses on ASEAN's Development Agenda; major players in the region and how these impact on peoples' rights in the 11 countries where the APF has presence. It will also look into and share an assessment of processes and mechanisms that ASEAN has put in place as safeguards and mitigate the impact of its development agenda on the environment, peoples' rights and livelihood.

The webinar series aims to:

- surface analyses on ASEAN’s Development Agenda and the consequences to rights of the peoples of the 11 countries in Southeast Asian Countries that ACSC/APF has presence
- examine the ASEAN processes and existing mechanisms to safeguard and mitigate the impacts of its development agenda on the environment, peoples’ rights and livelihood
- identify possible entry points for engagement from the national to the regional level and workable actions for advocacy and solidarity that will be presented and finalised in the strategy meeting of the Corporate Greed and Power Convergence Space during the ACSC/APF 2017
- engage other organizations/movements to join the Convergence Space and participate in the ACSC/APF conference in Nov 2017

The Webinar topics and schedules are as follows:

Topic	Schedule
Unmasking the ASEAN Economic Community and Corporate Power in the ASEAN	13 October 2017, (2:00 – 4:00 pm BKK) / (3:00 – 5:00 pm) MNL
Understanding the different manifestations of Corporate Power	21 October 2017, (2:00 – 4:00 pm BKK) / (3:00 – 5:00 pm) MNL
Regional Solidarity for Development Justice	30 October 2017, (2:00 – 4:00 pm BKK) / (3:00 – 5:00 pm) MNL

**MODALITY AND SESSION DESCRIPTION**

The webinar series will be facilitated via an online meeting platform Voice Boxer. Session descriptions are as follows:

- **Unmasking the ASEAN Economic Community and Growing Corporate Power in the ASEAN.** This is the first of three webinar series in preparation of the ACSC/APF 2017. The webinar session will go through the AEC, how it has facilitated the growing power of corporations and financial institutions in Southeast Asia. The session will also surface the views and experiences of marginalised sectors perspectives of how these have affected their rights and life. The session will also include introduction of the thematic Convergence Space on Corporate Greed and Power of the ACSC/APF 2017.
- **Understanding the different manifestations of Corporate Power.** This session will look into the sub-thematic focus of the convergence space: RCEP and FTAs in the ASEAN; Agro-TNC; Financing; Energy and Extractive Industries; and Climate Change. These will be discussed within the context of how these impact human rights, access to ASEAN commons; while also looking into government and corporate accountability.
- **Regional Solidarity for Development Justice.** This session provides the space to explore frameworks, practice and alternatives for regional solidarity grounded in human rights, and Development Justice. It will gather inputs for a “People’s Trade Agreement” which will outline areas of regional cooperation that will advance Development Justice from this