

FOCUS ON GLOBAL SOUTH

2013

Annual Report

Table of Contents

Defending the Commons	3
Climate and Environmental Justice	7
Trade and Investment	11
Gender and Women’s Rights	16
Media Spotlight	17
Finances	19
Publications	21
Staff and Board of Directors	23

Focus on the Global South 2013 Annual Report

Following a successful restructuring process in 2011-2012, Focus on the Global South continued to provide a powerful critical analysis of inequality and corporate capture in South and Southeast Asia during 2013. Under the ongoing programme, “Whose New Asia?”, we engaged with social movements, NGOs and other types of allies at national, regional and international levels in our three thematic programme areas: Defending the Commons, Climate and Environmental Justice, and Trade and Investment.

Despite the challenge of limited resources, Focus produced informed analyses of trends, developed campaigns together with our allies, and advanced much-needed alternatives to neoliberalism and other economic growth-based paradigms. Our key activities during the year included strengthening grassroots, justice-oriented approaches to the climate change crisis through platforms like the Climate Space at the World Social Forum, resisting the free trade agenda in countries in the region and at the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization in Bali, supporting land reform initiatives, and helping build international frameworks to regulate corporate investments in agriculture through the Committee on World Food Security of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Defending the Commons (Land, Water & Forests)

Focus on the Global South collaborated with social movements, NGOs, and other allies in Asia and globally to defend the rights of local communities to land, food and resources at national and international policy levels. We continued our advocacy-oriented and grassroots research on these issues, defending the agro-ecology

Achievements in 2013

- Mobilized opposition to the WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali and supported national campaigns against bilateral agreements in India, the Philippines and Thailand.
- Launched the National Platform against Water Privatisation with allies in India.
- Held dialogues in Asia about the Latin American indigenous concept of *Vivir Bien* (“living well”) as an alternative to growth-based economic models.
- Co-organised the Climate Space at the World Social Forum in Tunis, putting the need for system change at the centre of international climate justice work.
- Engaged directly in policy, drafting legislation in the Philippines and participating as an official NGO representative on the UN Committee on World Food Security.
- Strengthened regional climate and economic justice movements resisting the neoliberal agendas of ASEAN, national governments and transnational corporations.
- Launched focusonpoverty.org, a comprehensive web resource on socio-economic issues in the Philippines.

practices of peasants and indigenous communities and supporting the land and resource rights of rural women’s movements. We also influenced public debate, working with partners from popular movements, other advocacy institutions, universities and research organisations, multilateral governmental institutions, governmental officials, and media outlets.

FOCUS ON THE GLOBAL SOUTH
2 0 1 3
ANNUAL REPORT

Inspired by and engaged with local struggles, we worked to connect national campaigns with regional and international civil society initiatives such as the World Social Forum process, and policy forums like the Committee on World Food Security. We did this by collaborating with key international movements and groups such as La Via Campesina and FIAN International, and with institutions such as FAO and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. As a member of the Land Research Action Network, we work closely with La Via Campesina's Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform, providing research, analysis, educational tools and advocacy support for community-based organisations.

International

Focus remained engaged as one of the leading civil society groups in the Committee on World Food Security,

an intergovernmental body within the UN System. As one of the technical coordinators of the working group to develop principles of Responsible Agricultural Investment, we collaborated on the terms of reference and background materials to start this two-year process. Our staff also began to monitor implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, which we helped draft in 2012. We conducted a consultation workshop on these issues at the World Social Forum in March, and provided technical support for a Southeast Asia civil society consultation meeting on Responsible Agricultural Investment and the Voluntary Guidelines in Jakarta in May. We also led the team to prepare civil society comments on the Zero Draft of the Principles of Responsible Agricultural Investment. As a result of civil society advocacy, most governments rejected the Zero Draft in a working group meeting in May. We then provided comments again after the technical team released a subsequent draft in July.

Civil society groups voiced their appreciation for Focus' contribution to the Committee on World Food Security by choosing Shalmali Guttal to be an NGO constituency representative on the Coordination Committee for the International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism. While this institution still has shortcomings, much like the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, these are starting points from which we intend to keep pushing the boundaries in ending corporate dominance.

In June 2013, Focus staff participated in the Sixth International Conference of La Via Campesina, held in Jakarta to celebrate 20 years of achievements by this international movement. We served on the synthesis team and facilitated workshops on agrarian reform, transnational corporations and trade.

In October, Focus worked with La Via Campesina and PARAGOS-Filipinas to organise a forum in Quezon



City called “The Scramble for Land in Southeast Asia: Resistance and Struggles against Global Land Grab”. Participants discussed the food security policies of ASEAN and FAO, and shared their experiences from Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

At the international and regional level, Focus continued to serve as a key civil society resource on alternatives to water privatisation and commercialisation in Asia. On July 5, Mary Ann Manahan presented at the workshop “Alternative Ways of Organizing Public Services and Work in the Public Sector”, organised in Berlin by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Kolleg Postwachstum (Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena), Ver.di, and Public Services International.

Focus spoke on the inaugural and reclaiming public water panels at an event called “Reclaiming and Re-imagining Public Services: Perspectives from the Global South” organised in October in Bangalore, India, by ActionAid, Jan Arogya Andolana-Karnataka, Peoples Campaign for Right to Water-Karnataka, and the Municipal Services Project. Finally, in November in Barcelona, Focus co-organised a strategy meeting of the Reclaiming Public Water Network on the future of public water. This network connects water activists, trade unions, academics and public water operators from the global North and South, as well as regional and thematic networks, all working to improve and democratize public water provision.

Regional and National

In India, Focus concentrated on building a national platform to oppose water privatisation, monitor land grabbing, and promote agro-ecology (the study of ecological processes in agricultural production systems). Launched in June, the National Platform Against Water Privatisation is becoming an important national group on water issues, and its activities received wide media coverage during 2013. We worked with the Platform throughout the year to build



anti-privatisation campaigns in Delhi and other cities, and to produce a detailed analysis of the National Water Framework Law for the Ministry of Water Resources.

We also worked with the Citizens’ Front for Water Democracy to draft the People’s Manifesto on Water, with more than 100,000 copies distributed to residents of Delhi and the candidates for assembly elections in four states (Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Rajasthan). In December, we co-organised a two-day meeting with the National Platform Against Water Privatisation on “The People’s Campaign Against Privatisation and Reforms in the Water Sector” in Bhopal to continue building the national movement in a state facing privatisation of water supplies in almost every city as well as in rural and irrigation sectors.

Focus was an active participant in the activities of civil society and social movements during the Asian Development Bank’s Annual Governors’ Meeting in India in May 2013. The meetings and parallel activities we organised to address the issues of land, water and resource grabbing were covered in our June 2013 newsletter, published in English and Indonesian.

In October, we organised a two-day workshop on small farmer agriculture with participants from five states. We also attended multiple forums of allied organisations and demonstrations throughout the year dealing with water, agriculture, hydroelectric dams, forest loss, public services and efforts to defend the commons in India.

In the Mekong region, Focus continued its involvement in the Save the Mekong Coalition, which creates awareness about the destructive impacts of large-scale dams in the Mekong River Basin, co-organising and facilitating regional strategy meetings in February. In March, we collaborated with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) to co-organise a workshop on legal tools for accountability in agricultural investments in Southeast Asia, as well as a public forum (also sponsored by Chulalongkorn University, UNEP and UNDP) that brought together the participants in this workshop with private sector and government representatives from Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. A video by UNEP-UNDP staff about the forum and its participants is online at youtu.be/awCf3Cm3qE8.

In Thailand in March, Focus co-organised an “Asian Peoples’ Forum on Defending Rights in Development”, the second workshop as part of an ongoing collaboration with the Bank Information Centre, International Accountability Project and AKSI to develop a framework of people’s safeguards for development projects funded by international financial institutions.

In August, we organised two panels on the commons in Southeast Asia at the International Conference on Interdisciplinary Research and Development at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. We also assisted the Netherlands-based ICCO in organising two regional meetings for partners regarding the defence and promotion of land rights in Southeast Asia: one in Bangkok in July, and another Bali in December.

In Cambodia, we continued to collaborate with communities in northwestern areas of the country during 2013 through a project called “Supporting Knowledge Generation among Community-Led Networks”. Through this programme, we trained a fourth action research team in October and began case studies with team members on land-titling by the Cambodian Government, the abuse of the legal and judicial system, large-scale irrigation projects around Tonle Sap Lake, and the Pheapimex land concession in Pursat and Kampong Chhnang provinces. We plan to publish the studies in 2014. We have also been active in work to counter the criminalization and oppression of land activists in the country, working with the Community Peace Building Network to address the politically motivated arrests and detentions of their members and allies, including a senior member of the action research project in May.

In neighbouring Laos, Focus joined an international campaign to speak out against the enforced disappearance of Mr. Sombath Somphone, a well-known development practitioner and long time ally of our organisation. We worked with other concerned parties to organise press conferences, demonstrations, letters and petitions, fund-raising efforts, and three parliamentary delegations to Laos in relation to Mr. Somphone’s disappearance (see sombath.org) Focus also began collaborating closely with human rights groups in the region to draw attention to the criminalization of dissent and human rights defenders, as well as the extrajudicial risks, threats and violence that rights activists face.

In the Philippines, Focus continued to act as secretary and co-convenor of the Save Agrarian Reform Alliance. We also participated in the campaign of women against mining, conducted field visits and data gathering to study women and food sovereignty, and published a comprehensive Report on the State of Agrarian Reform in May 2013. To promote knowledge about land grabbing, we held several media briefings and

conferences. We also urged multiple government bodies to push for a continuation of land reform through work that included making official submissions to the Commission on Human Rights and Congressional Oversight Committee on Agrarian Reform and helping to draft two House Resolutions that will be debated in 2014. Other notable activities included a strategy meeting on land grabbing with Katarungan/Rights Network, and monitoring cases in communities hit by Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda.

Our work on water was picked up by Philippine national media, which aired a special investigative documentary inspired by Focus' publication, "Treading Troubled Waters". Meanwhile, an extended interview with Mary Ann Manahan was shown on the GMA 7 morning television show "Kape at Balita" in April.

Throughout 2013, we continued to provide key analysis on water to the Water Watch Coalition, an alliance of civil society groups and people's organisations in the Philippines working on a broad range of issues in the water sector, and were regularly consulted by the government's Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and Commission on Human Rights.

Climate & Environmental Justice

International negotiations on climate change remained locked in a stalemate in 2013, while communities across Asia were faced with the most devastating impacts of the climate crisis experienced to date. In June, extreme unseasonal rainfall in the Indian state of Uttarakhand caused massive floods and landslides that claimed more than 5,700 lives. This disaster demonstrated once again that the poor are victimized by the relentless assault on the precarious balance between human and natural systems through shortsighted economic activities. In November, Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda became the strongest storm ever recorded to hit land. It was the

deadliest typhoon ever to hit the Philippines, causing over 6,200 casualties and more than US\$700 million in economic losses.

Focus staff shared information and analysis regarding these issues through the many events and presentations that we organised and attended in 2013. Our climate justice work was more closely woven together with other themes as we increasingly position our perspective on the nexus between climate change and ecological destruction on one hand and injustice and inequality on the other. We were invited to make presentations at many international events, including:

- Just Giving Conference of EDGE funders in Washington, DC, in March.
- CIDSE workshop "Bringing about a paradigm shift towards a just and sustainable world" in Brussels in May.
- "Not the G8: A real agenda for global justice" in Leeds, UK, in June.
- Sustainability Academy at the Health of Mother Earth School in Nigeria in August.
- The Rights of Nature and Economics of the Biosphere Summit in California in October.
- International Conference on Climate Justice in Scotland in October.

Movement Building for a Systems Change Approach to Climate Change

In our presentations, publications, interviews and discussions, we have consciously strived to advance popular understanding that predatory capitalism is the root cause of climate change. We helped build movements around this issue and taught the participants in our events about the importance of rooting their work in a systems change approach. In 2013, we facilitated new networks and spaces that appreciate the imperative of working for systems change in order to halt climate change and ensure the survival of humans and nature.



Learning from our Roots: Vivir Bien

To strengthen alternative paradigms, Focus organised three separate discussions in Manila, Bangkok and New Delhi exploring the Latin American indigenous concepts of *vivir bien* or *buen vivir* (“living well” or “the good life”) and equivalents in Asian indigenous societies. A philosophy that emphasizes balance and harmony with nature and within societies, *vivir bien* offers a possible solution to the climate crisis by challenging the notion of endless growth and countering the problematic approach of the “green economy”.

The discussions brought together members of indigenous groups and a variety of social movements, including women’s organisations, workers, persons with disabilities, cultural workers, informal settlers, academics, and trade justice activists. In each country, participants expressed a desire to continue the discussions to further explore and learn about indigenous beliefs in Latin America and Asia to develop and strengthen alternatives that can help communities overcome social, economic and environmental challenges. Afterward, we published a booklet in English, Thai and Hindi, and released a video in Filipino with English subtitles. We plan to continue these discussions and build cross-border links between the groups in the coming year.

International Networks for Climate Justice

We were involved in multiple efforts to revive international grassroots cooperation on climate justice campaigning in 2013. Focus was entrusted, together with Jubilee South-Asia Pacific, to lead the ongoing effort to revive the network known as Climate Justice Now! We also served on the International Committee of the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice. Meanwhile, we continued our collaboration with Solidarity for Asian People’s Advocacies, a civil society network that challenges the neoliberal approach of the ASEAN economic integration and its detrimental impacts on the environment and climate, serving as members of the network’s Environmental Working Group and Corporate Accountability Working Group.

Climate Space at the World Social Forum

Focus was a key member of a coalition of 20 groups that organised the Climate Space at the World Social Forum in Tunisia in March 2013 (climatespace2013.wordpress.com). The Climate Space clearly established the centrality of climate justice and system change to worldwide struggles for social, economic and gender justice. Throughout the year, we worked in a loose alliance with other members of the Climate Space to broaden climate justice work by linking the issue with initiatives around trade, investments, migration, labour and green jobs, and movements for alternatives.

At the World Social Forum, we also joined with the global water justice network to organise a day of discussions and sharing on water services to learn about the state of water and public services more broadly in Tunisia, and to discuss strategies for increased international action on preventing and reversing the privatization of water. Focus also co-organised workshops on land rights, agricultural investments, food sovereignty, and the financialisation of nature. In total, our staff acted as panel speakers, facilitators or key organisers of 18 well-attended events.

Regional Climate Justice Initiative

On the regional level, Focus continued to be an active member of the Thai Climate Justice Working Group and the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice. These groups, together with the Civil Society Forum for Climate Justice in Indonesia, organised a regional conference on emission cuts and low carbon alternatives in November. Allies from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and India joined the members of the three climate justice networks for three days of knowledge sharing and strategy workshops. The conference allowed climate justice networks from

the region to discuss common issues and strategise for coordinated campaign work on climate and environmental justice. At the heart of this struggle is resistance to the extractivist, corporate-driven development model being pursued by governments in the region.

The meeting highlighted the ongoing struggles against coal energy, land and water grabbing, and large-scale investment projects. Afterward, we issued a press statement demanding urgent action on climate change in the wake of the catastrophe wrought by Typhoon



Haiyan/Yolanda, expressing concerns over the direction of the UNFCCC negotiations and the continuing failure to reach a global consensus. In order to make a meaningful contribution to mobilisations during the Conference of the Parties in Paris in 2015 (COP-21), we developed a two-year time line of actions and regional and global events.

In 2013, we also continued to co-convene the Working Group on the Environment as part of the regional network known as Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacies, which collaborates with national groups in organising the parallel events during the ASEAN summits.

Building National Movements

Philippines

Focus continues to be an active member of the Coordinating Committee of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, overseeing the implementation of the PMCJ Plan of Action. In February, we helped organise a round table discussion on false solutions to climate change, looking at the Clean Development Mechanism, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), agrofuels and the Coral Triangle Initiative in our region.

In May, Focus held a workshop on the impacts of climate change on women, with particular focus on food producers, involving women beneficiaries of agrarian reform in Mulanay, Quezon.

In September, we joined with the women's rights collective Lilak to represent the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice at a meeting organised by the Thai Climate Justice Working Group on REDD+ in Bangkok. Joseph Purugganan briefed participants from Thai communities on the REDD+ policy framework in the Philippines. The inputs were designed to support the Working Group in their engagement of Thailand's Readiness Preparation Proposal under the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.



In October, Focus co-organised a forum on emission cuts for developing countries with Pablo Solón as the main speaker. The discussion helped to consolidate the position of local movements on the issue of mitigation targets for developing countries.

Thailand

Focus also continued to act as the coordinating body of the Thai Climate Justice Working Group, which began two study frameworks in 2013: REDD+ and community rights, and carbon credit and organic farming. Following the successful effort to have the national climate change action plan rewritten through a consultation process, the Thai Climate Justice Working Group was again able to convince the Thai government to open climate-related issues to more direct democracy. The government agreed to open the REDD+ readiness process to meaningful dialogues with stakeholders, with the proposed plan to incorporate inputs from the dialogues.

In December, Focus helped to organise the conference titled "Rethink Urban Life", which was part of a national campaign to raise awareness about the heavy energy consumption of businesses especially in commercial and residential buildings in Bangkok.

India

Focus played an active role in reviving the India Climate Justice network, which began regular meetings in July of 2013. We contributed to launching Mausam, a new quarterly e-magazine for the network, and served on the editorial team.

After the floods in Uttarakhand in June, we undertook a variety of actions to respond to the disaster. We issued an appeal highlighting state apathy in dealing with the disaster in July, and participated in a meeting of the Beyond Copenhagen Collective to discuss immediate steps to address the disaster. In October, we worked with the Collective again to organise a meeting with farmer groups to further respond to the Uttarakhand situation and its impact on agriculture and the prices of crops. Afsar Jafri was one of the key speakers. As a follow-up to this meeting, Focus wrote to various farmers groups and networks asking them to assist farmers in Uttarakhand in the marketing of their produce. Furthermore, Focus was part of the core team that carried out a “Loss and Damage Impact Assessment” visit to Uttarkashi district in

Uttarakhand from October 13 to 15, the findings of which were presented at a side event at the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Warsaw (COP-19).

Related to that process, Focus participated in a Pre-COP Consultation organised by the Beyond Copenhagen Collective and Oxfam India. Other activities during the year included discussions about large coal mining projects near Chennai and their impacts local livelihoods, health, land use patterns, ecosystems and the environment.

Trade & Investment

Despite the obvious failure of neoliberal economic policies and export-based economies in recent years, and despite glaring economic inequalities in Asia and around the world, powerful corporations and their allies continue to push a free trade agenda. Focus on the Global South has remained a strong voice challenging this agenda and exposing its harmful effects on the well-being of people and nature through both national and international platforms.



Derailing the WTO

The World Trade Organization was back on the agenda in 2013 as governments pushed for a provisional deal at the Ninth Ministerial Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, in December. To consolidate popular resistance to the WTO, Focus worked closely with the Indonesian campaign platform Gerak Lawan and the Social Movements for Alternative Asia (SMAA).

Campaign Coordination

Ahead of the Bali Ministerial, Focus issued a briefing paper on the Bali agenda and participated in several events in Indonesia (Yogyakarta, Jakarta, and Bali) to consolidate and coordinate plans. Gerak Lawan issued a call to action early in the year and held subsequent discussions to stir public debate on the issues and gather support for coordinated actions at

key moments, including at the World Social Forum in April and the La Via Campesina Conference in Jakarta in June.

In September, we participated in the coordination meeting of SMAA and Gerak Lawan to prepare the week of action during the Bali Ministerial, finalizing preparations for the Peoples' Tribunal and Economic Justice Assembly and detailing the overall collective political strategy and inside-outside game plan. We also arranged logistics, finances and organisational aspects of activities and actions by SMAA and Gerak Lawan during the WTO Ministerial.

We held national-level discussions with networks and platforms in India and the Philippines to deepen the collective analysis of movements on the issues in the Bali agenda. India in particular was a key player, and its positions on agriculture and trade facilitation were



deemed crucial in making or breaking consensus. Our India office held several planning meetings and a national seminar on the WTO in October with trade experts from the movements and academia as well as and government and business representatives. In the final week, Focus worked with farmers groups and Members of Parliament in intensive campaigning and lobbying against India's acceptance of the Peace Clause under the G33 proposal on Food Stockholding, helping mobilize them to raise their concerns with the trade minister, prime minister and mainstream media.

Derailers' Guide

To inform activists and social movements about the Bali Ministerial, Focus issued a new edition of one of our most well known publications, the "Derailers' Guide to the WTO". Version two of the guide - the first one came out ahead of the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial - dissects the main issues behind the Bali Package, the current geo-political dynamics of the WTO, and highlights the critical elements of the free trade and investment agenda beyond Bali. Copies were distributed in English and Indonesian to activists at the #EndWTO Bali Week of Action as well as to members of the media, NGOs and official delegates inside the negotiations.

Inside and Outside Actions in Bali

Focus was actively involved in actions and interventions inside and outside the Ministerial. Inside, we facilitated and spoke in panel discussions and press conferences targeting representatives of country delegations and the media, articulating the "End WTO" message and initiating broader discussions on alternatives to the WTO.

Focus participated in a number of inside actions including a flash mob by Philippine women's groups linking trade and climate issues, the solemn funeral march to commemorate the death of South Korean



farmer Lee Kyung Hae, the action by Indian groups after the Inaugural Plenary to oppose the Peace Clause, and the "Casino of Death" action towards the end of the Ministerial to highlight how WTO gambles with people's lives and the planet.

Focus also helped influence and pressure national delegations to oppose the unjust Bali Package and to defend the interest of the poor and marginalized in the talks. These engagements yielded a number of statements, press releases and letters to government outlining the clear demands of people's movements. Several actions were also organised targeting specific country delegations of India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

We issued a joint statement with Indian and Indonesian groups urging their negotiators to defend the interests of peasants and workers, and food sovereignty of their populations. Together with Philippine movements, we issued two statements addressed to the Philippine government: one urging the suspension of current commitments to the WTO and free trade agreements including new commitments under the proposed Bali Package, and another just before the conclusion of the talks asking the government to not give in to an unjust agreement.



Focus also worked with Indian civil society groups to sustain pressure on their government during the Bali Ministerial, closely monitoring developments on the proposal on Food Stockholding for food security and the agreement on Trade Facilitation. We organized a meeting in Bali to issue a letter to the Indian trade minister, urging him not to succumb to pressure from developed countries to weaken India's position on upholding food security.

Outside actions and events were organised as part of the #EndWTO Bali Week of Action spearheaded by Gerak Lawan and SMAA. Focus played a key role in organising the Economic Justice Assembly, which produced a draft consensus document called "Economy for Life" to serve as a basis for continuing discussions on alternatives. We also aided the Global People's Tribunal on WTO

and Free Trade, which addressed climate change, the environment and transnational corporations.

After Bali, we co-convened a meeting in Delhi with ActionAid, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and Third World Network to update Indian movements on the developments, analyze key issues and outcomes of the Ministerial, and chart an agenda for broader civil society groups across the country on trade issues.

In the Philippines, affiliates of SMAA met with Focus Founder and Board Member Walden Bello - now a representative in Congress - to discuss the Bali outcome and to identify directions for the campaign against free trade in the Philippines. Bello was important in pushing the Philippines to resist the pressures to support the Bali Package.

Resisting New Generation FTAs and National Campaign Actions

Various campaigns against free trade agreements at the national and regional levels also intensified in 2013, with Focus continuing our work in support of people's platforms.

In India, we continued to mobilise against the EU-India free trade negotiations, joining with trade unions and farmers in a protest at the Indian Parliament in February and a mobilisation of farmers during the Parliament's budget session in March. We also worked with Canadian groups to oppose the Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, and in April, Afsar Jafri travelled to Edmonton, Ottawa and Montreal to build links with Canadian movements opposing the agreement.

There was a flurry of activity in Thailand, with the government launching negotiations for a bilateral agreement with the EU after the stalemate in the EU-ASEAN free trade negotiations. Focus organised national forums in May in collaboration with the National Economic and Social Advisory Council in relation to the Thai-EU FTA and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). We carried out a successful media campaign, gaining newspaper, TV and radio coverage for Jacques-chai Chomthongdi and other members of the FTA Watch coalition. Jacques-chai was also appointed to the commerce minister's negotiation advisory committee. Through FTA Watch, we organised mobilisations during negotiating sessions and resisted the repeal of section 190 of the Thai Constitution, which requires parliamentary approval for international negotiations.

In September, Focus and allies organised a regional conference on the implications of global and regional investment for Thailand and ASEAN. The event raised public awareness, consolidated the position of the network, and opened spaces for debate with the Thai government on the issue. With key activists from Burma, we also organised a discussion on investments and investment

policy in that country. The political unrest at the end of the year made further mobilisation difficult, as it was unclear how the government would proceed with negotiations.

Focus and the EU-ASEAN Network also provided inputs in a couple of workshops geared towards awareness raising on trade and investment issues. Joseph Purugganan spoke at a forum on free trade agreements and the economic crisis in Hanoi in March, and at events with civil society and parliamentarians in Yangon in May regarding regional and international investment in Myanmar. The latter event was organised by the Transnational Institute, the EU-ASEAN Network and the national network Paung Ku.

In the Philippines, we worked to consolidate the EU-ASEAN Network ahead of anticipated bilateral free trade talks with the EU, issuing two public statements during the first quarter of the year. In July, after the EU declared the Philippines lacked sufficient commitment to the process, we met with top negotiators from the government and representatives from the intellectual property office, reaching an agreement on steps to boost transparency, participation, accountability and dialogue with civil society on specific trade issues. The network continued to pursue the process by convening a series of sectoral caucuses to formulate inputs to the social impact assessment process, and we submitted a report to the Department of Trade in December.

On BRICS and G-20

Focus has been following the developments in BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and its impact on other developing countries, especially in Asia. In March, Dorothy Guerrero spoke at the "BRICS from Below" People's Summit in Durban. She shared updates and analysis on the growing role of China and India in Asia and addressed a teach-in with community activists and organisers in Durban and a workshop on energy organised by the National Union of Metalworkers in South Africa. In

September, Guerrero went to St. Petersburg for a People's Summit on the G20 organised by the Russian Post-Globalisation network. She was one of the main speakers in the People's Summit and conducted a public lecture in Moscow.

Focus produced materials on BRICS in 2013, including an article on China and BRICS that was used for a national workshop in Rio de Janeiro and published in a book published by Brazil's Institute for Socio-Economic Studies. Focus also began working on a book with Transnational Institute about BRICS, which is expected to launch in early 2014.

Corporate Accountability and Human Rights

Focus participated in the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power and Stop Impunity as a member of its steering committee, helping organise key events such a workshop on corporate power and impunity during the World Social Forum in March, a dialogue for civil society and parliamentarians at the EU parliament in Brussels, and a workshop at the Bali Ministerial.

At the regional level, we worked with Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacies to produce the report "Corporate Accountability in ASEAN: A Human Rights Based Approach" published by FORUM-ASIA in September. We helped organise seminars on investment and human rights in Myanmar, the chair of ASEAN for 2014.

Focus was invited to share our insights on ASEAN integration at a number of inter-governmental and NGO panels in 2013, including a workshop on human rights and agribusiness in ASEAN in Bangkok in August, a regional consultation the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in Jakarta in November, and FORUM-ASIA's "People's Forum on Business and Human Rights" in Bangkok in November.

Gender and Women's Rights

Focus remains dedicated to working toward the eradication of all forms of discrimination, marginalisation, and abuse of women. In all of our programmes and interpersonal engagements, including in our own communities, we seek to confront inequalities faced by women that are rooted in patriarchy. Because women are particularly affected by the injustices we combat in our work, gender has been a cross-cutting issue in our 2012-2014 programme "Whose New Asia?"

In 2013, we continued to monitor the gender-differentiated impacts of elite capture of resources in the countries in which we are active, particularly in relation to land and resource grabbing. As in previous years, we carried out research focused on women and their relation to issues of food sovereignty, and the impact of climate change on women.

Particularly successful in terms of women's participation was our Action Research project in Cambodia, which ensured that equal numbers of women and men were included in the rural investigation teams. Women participants developed confidence and skills in information gathering and the analysis and presentation of information about land and resource conflicts, land rights, and human rights. After a few months of workshop training and fieldwork, participants began to assume leadership in group and team discussions, dialogues with government officials and village leaders, and in the planning and implementation of actions. They learned to clearly articulate the particular impacts of land and resource rights violations on women and how their rights to land and decision-making must be strengthened.

Finally, with regard to the internal functioning of Focus, we concluded revisions to our organisation's policies on anti-discrimination and gender, which are available upon request.

Media Spotlight

In 2013, Focus on the Global South staff members were frequently quoted in media outlets, ranging from major newspapers to popular blogs, as well as radio and television stations.

On the issue of land reform in the Philippines, Focus' work with grassroots partners and activists was covered in three national newspapers: *The Philippine Daily Inquirer*, *Mail and Standard*, and *Business Mirror*.

Regarding water and the commons, Mary Ann Manahan gave an extended interview on prime time

television for a morning news show in the Philippines on the channel GMA 7. Meanwhile, GMA Network produced an in-depth report based on the Focus publication, "Treading Troubled Waters". Mary Ann was also interviewed on the radio station DZBB.

Regarding the campaign against water privatisation in India, Afsar Jafri was quoted in the *Times of India*, the *Hindustan Times*, and *Businessworld*. Our work with the National Platform Against Water Privatisation was also featured in articles in the newspaper *The Hindu* and on blogs like "Delhi Greens" and "India Water Portal".



On the issue of climate justice and the UNFCCC Conference in Warsaw, Pablo Solón published an opinion piece on the blog “Daily Kos” that was shared widely on social networks. At other moments during the year, he was quoted on the issue of climate justice in Nigeria’s *Premium Standard* and on blogs like “Baliff Africa”, “Climate and Capitalism”, and “RTTC”.

Dorothy Guerrero spoke about climate issues at numerous international conferences on that were covered in local news and on the websites of groups like the World Development Movement, Post Globalization Initiative, and the World Wildlife Fund. She also promoted Focus’ efforts to raise funds for relief in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan/ Yolanda in the *Bangkok Post*.

During the World Trade Organization meeting in Bali, Pablo Solón made waves in the blogosphere, with mentions in “Intrepid Report”, “Before Its News”, “Global Social Justice”, and “Radio Mundo Real”. Similarly, a flash mob by Mary Ann Manahan and Filipina activists in Bali was covered by “Interaksyon”, and Afsar Jafri and Indian activists spoke to “Jungle Drum Radio” and the *Jakarta Post*.

In Thailand, Jaques-Chai Chomthongdi garnered a lot of coverage in his work on opposing free trade agreements and amendment of Constitutional Article 190, including two front-page stories in the *Bangkok Post*. He made four appearances on national television (TPBS, Channel 3 and Channel 11) and

five appearances on cable television (Voice TV and ASTV). He also made about 20 appearances on national radio programmes (stations 96.5FM, 101FM, and 102.5FM). He and Niabdulghafar Tohmng published an op-ed together in the *Bangkok Post* called “Free Trade Has a Heavy Price”.

Joseph Purugganan’s work to raise awareness about the negative impacts of free trade agreements in the Philippines was covered by “Interaksyon”, “Indymedia Australia”, and “Business World Online”.

Andrew de Sousa published opinion pieces regarding the issue of human rights and justice in Indonesia in the *Jakarta Post* and “Asia Times”.

Shalmali Guttal published an opinion piece protesting the disappearance of Sombath Somphone in *The Irrawaddy*. She and Clarissa Militante also earned coverage in the online news sites “UCA News”, “Interaksyon”, and “Ghana News Agency” for rallies against Mr. Somphone’s disappearance at the Lao Embassy.

Finally, Walden Bello continued to publish his popular column in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* throughout 2013. He wrote about a dozen pieces on trade negotiations, agrarian reform, poverty, and climate change. Another of his op-eds, “GMO Wars”, was published online by “Foreign Policy in Focus” and “Common Dreams”.

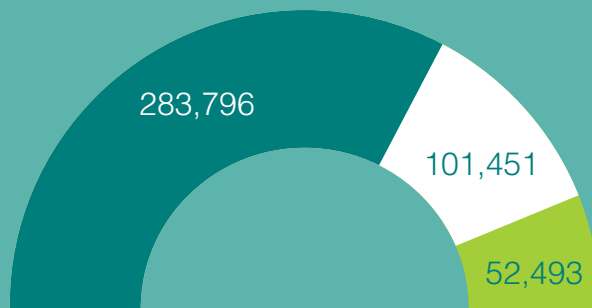
Financial Summary 2013

Balances (in €)

	Net assets	Focus programmes	Coalition programmes	Gratuities payable	Operating reserves
Ending balance 2012	309,580	149,827	29,150	80,551	50,053
Income in 2013	566,137	408,908	155,759	-	1,428
Expenditures in 2013	(697,601)	(437,740)	(182,342)	(77,429)	-
Ending balance 2013	178,076	120,995	2,447	3,122	51,482

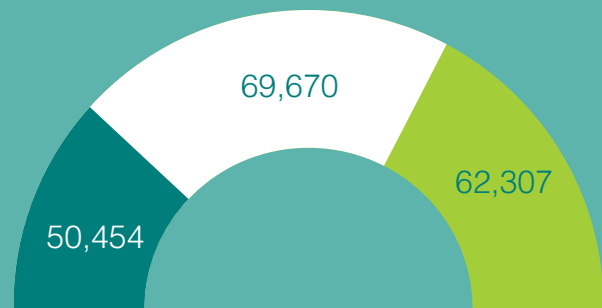
Expenditures by programme area

Focus programmes



- Bangkok (65%)
- Manila (23%)
- Dehli (12%)

Coalition programmes

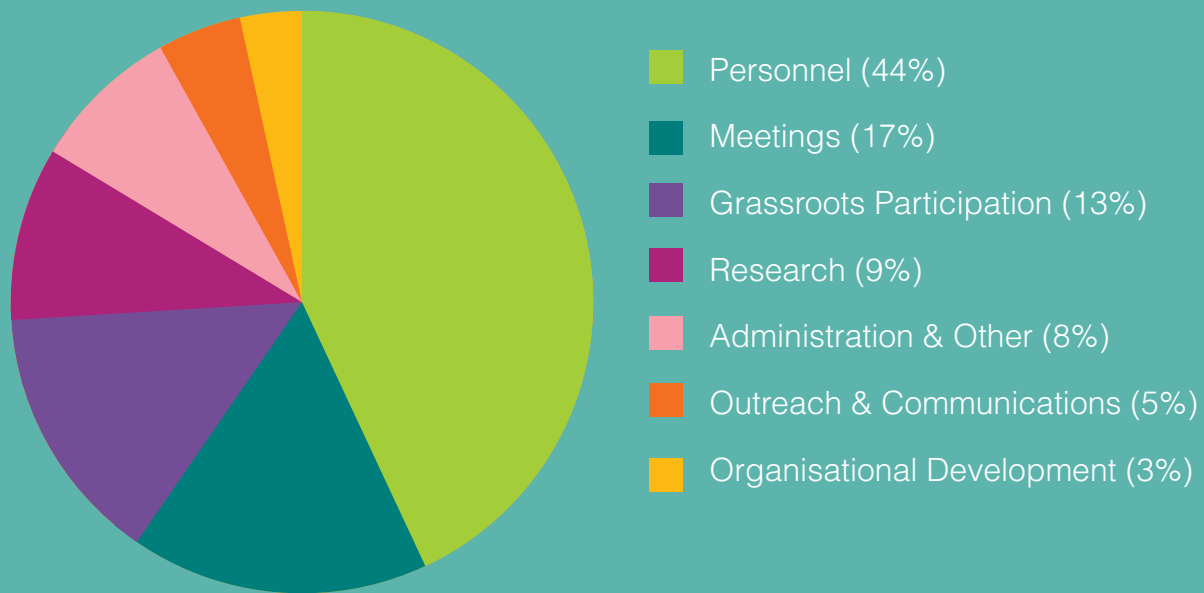


- EU-ASEAN Network (28%)
- Cambodia Action Research Project (38%)
- Thai Climate Justice (34%)

Expenditures by category

Total: €620,172

Includes Focus and coalition programmes



Major Donors

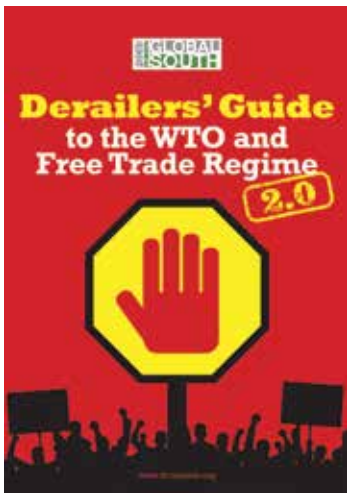
11.11.11 Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement
 CCFD - Terre Solidaire
 DanChurchAid
 Development & Peace
 ICCO/Kerke in Actie
 Inter Pares
 New Venture Fund
 Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
 Siemenpuu Foundation
 Solidago Foundation

Thai Climate Justice Donors

Diakonia
 KEPA
 Heinrich Böll Foundation

Publications

All of our publications and media coverage of our work is available on our website at focusweb.org. Highlights from 2013 include:

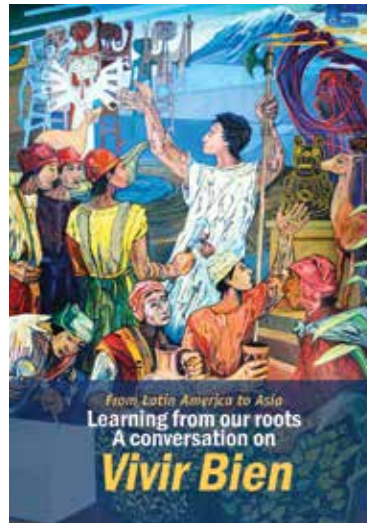


Derailers' Guide to the WTO and Free Trade Regime 2.0

focusweb.org/content/derailers-guide-wto-and-free-trade-regime-20

A timely update of Focus' 2005 "Derailers' Guide to the WTO" to help activists understand and oppose the Bali Ministerial, dissecting the main issues in the Bali package, current geo-political dynamics within the WTO, and critical elements of the free trade and investment agenda beyond Bali. Published in English and Indonesian.

We also published two editions of our print and online newsletter. The March edition covered climate, trade and the enforced disappearance of Sombath Somphone, with a French translation also printed for distribution at the World Social Forum. The June edition focused on land issues, including women and land rights, the role of the Asian Development Bank, and resistance to the WTO. An Indonesian translation was produced for the La Via Campesina Conference in Jakarta.



Learning from our Roots: A Conversation on *Vivir Bien*

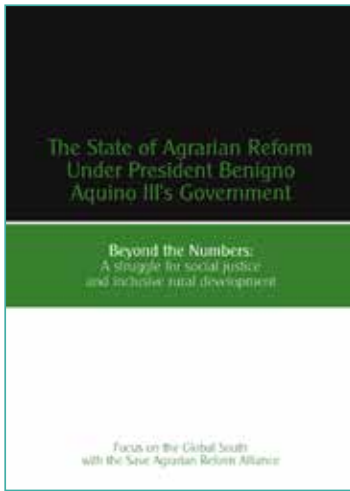
focusweb.org/content/learning-our-roots-conversation-vivir-bien

An introduction to the South American indigenous concept of *vivir bien* ("living well") used on discussions in the Philippines, Thailand and India, a short introduction to the South American concept of *vivir bien* ("living well") and how it relates to Asian indigenous philosophies. Booklet in English, Thai and Hindi; short video in English and Filipino.

Website: Focus on Poverty

www.focusonpoverty.org

A website with information on poverty and socio-economic issues in the Philippines based on the work of our 2011-2013 programme, "Standing with the Poor and Marginalized". Designed to serve as a comprehensive, multi-dimensional resource on combating poverty for researchers, campaigners, policy makers and the general public.



The State of Agrarian Reform Under President Benigno Aquino III's Government (with Save Agrarian Reform Alliance)

focusweb.org/content/state-agrarian-reform-under-president-benigno-aquino-iii-government

A critique of the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme Extension with Reforms (CARPER) in the Philippines, using government data and first hand information from the experiences of agrarian reform beneficiaries and advocacy organisations in various provinces of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Report: Conference on Water Privatization: Learning from India and International Experiences

focusweb.org/content/report-conference-water-privatization-learning-india-and-international-experiences

A detailed report from a conference on water privatisation held in March 2013 at the India Social Institute in New Delhi.



Briefing Paper: The Chinese North-South Railway Project (with Equitable Cambodia)

focusweb.org/content/briefing-paper-chinese-north-south-railway-project

An overview of the largest development plan in Cambodia's history, an \$11 billion construction deal by two Chinese companies to extract iron ore in Rovieng province.

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Pablo Solón (Executive Director)
Andrew Teixeira de Sousa (Operations Manager)
Dorothy Grace Guerrero (Programme Officer)
Jacques-chai Chomthongdi (Programme Officer)
– left in 2013
Nathaporn Meesuay (Finance and Accounts)
Niabdulghafar Tohming (Programme Officer)
– joined in 2013
Raffy Simbol (IT/Librarian)
Shalmali Guttal (Programme Officer)
Soontaree Nakaviroj (Administrator)

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Focus on the Global South is an activist think tank based in Asia providing analysis and building alternatives for just social, economic and political change.

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