

Focus on the Global South

Annual Report 2010

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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2010

Deglobalisation Programme

Trade:

National public consultation process on the negotiation framework of the EU-Thailand FTA was successfully conducted throughout Thailand. There were four open consultations in different regions of the country and one expert meeting in the capital. Altogether more than one thousand people were involved in the process. At the end, a comprehensive set of recommendations derived from all sectors was submitted to the government. This document was the first of its kind, and helped push the government to review its position and delay the negotiations. This process was the result of a campaign by Focus on the Global South and its allies to democratise trade negotiation procedures.

National workshops and conferences on FTAs were conducted throughout the year in India, Philippines, and Thailand. These events became platforms for increasing awareness and building capacities on FTAs and trade issues, strengthening campaigns, and consolidating positions and campaign plans and actions.

The EU-ASEAN Campaign Network heightened its campaign against the bilateral FTAs with ASEAN member states. Towards the end of the year, regional and national level plans were consolidated.

In India, the Forum Against FTAs mainly concentrated on putting pressure to stall the EU-India FTA negotiations. In 2010 the Forum's key achievement was in garnering support from varied sectors, including political parties and affected constituencies within and outside India. Several roundtables, press conferences and seminars were held in different locations across the country. At the EU-India summit in December 2010, European Parliamentarians raised concerns about serious developmental and democratic deficit and more than 200 groups from Europe and India wrote to political leaders to call for a halt to the negotiations.

Alternative Regionalisms:

The ASEAN Peoples' Forum (APF) in Hanoi, in which Focus staff had put a great deal of effort to shape content and process while working with the official Vietnamese host organisations, was successful in exposing Vietnamese participants to the various

controversial issues and debates. In this forum, Focus' effort in conjunction with regional groups also achieved significant progress in obtaining endorsement from civil society groups, notably from Vietnam and Indonesia, for the initiative to raise the issues of sustainability and the need for a common ASEAN regional environmental platform, often referred to as a 4th 'pillar' in addition to the existing economic, socio-cultural and political security 'pillars'.

The campaign for the 4th pillar on the environment for ASEAN, in which Focus was a co-initiator, was further elaborated and mainstreamed. A Working Group on the Environment was proposed within the Solidarity for Asia Peoples' Advocacies (SAPA) network of Southeast Asian national and regional civil society groups, and was accepted. The working group is now elaborating the details of the campaign.

In Thailand, the Thai working group on the APF, which has been involved in co-organising three APFs since 2009 in collaboration with Focus and SAPA, decided in the evaluation meeting on November 23, 2010 to establish a Thai ASEAN-Watch network. This network aims to continue to monitor the implementation of ASEAN's blueprints, to push for more civil society space for participation in ASEAN affairs, to build Thai civil society's capacity to make linkages between regional, national and local issues, and to work with other civil society groups in the region to build alternative regional cooperation.

A campaign for freedom of information in ASEAN has been introduced by Focus in 2010. Several workshops have been held to discuss the content of the campaign and this has gained regional support. A Task Force on ASEAN FOI has been proposed to the SAPA Working Group on ASEAN and will be formalised in 2011. A project to produce an ASEAN FOI Handbook was started in December and will be completed by first half of 2011.

Focus helped facilitate the continuing process for the People's South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (PSAARC), playing a key role in organising the People's SAARC meeting in April 2010. A Steering Committee and Secretariat for the PSAARC have also been established in 2010.

Focus helped bring the meeting of the General Forum of SAPA to South Asia for the first time in 2010. The 4th General Forum of SAPA was held in Kathmandu in March.

Critical Discourses on Alternatives:

Achievements of the Development Roundtable Series (DRTS) in the Philippines:

- 1) Final integrative papers for 4 thematic areas (Water Resources and Services, Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Visayas and Mindanao), which were validated through consultations, were completed. These papers were a result of years of research and roundtable discussions among the thematic working groups (TWGs), and are now being used in the engagement with government and other social-political institutions to push for policy reforms/action;
- 2) A forum on “P-Noy’s 100 days” was conducted in Manila to initiate critical engagement/dialogue with the new government of President Benigno Aquino III. During this time, the new government has already laid down important social-economic policies which have to be reviewed at this early stage, because they were indicative of the government’s direction, especially in anti-poverty. This forum also aimed to ensure social participation in the ongoing policy direction setting of government;
- 3) “Focus in Mindanao” was an endeavour to replicate the P-Noy 100 Days forum and more importantly to highlight Mindanao issues as well as the impact of government policies on the region;
- 4) Under the Focus in Mindanao activity, a forum-cum-strategy meeting on water was also conducted to link together the efforts and work of the DRTS TWGs in Mindanao and Visayas.

Focus Philippines launched and released three books, including a Special Report and a new type of newsletter, which aims to provide specialised information for a specific audience: policy makers as well as leaders and key members of mass organisations, political and other sector-based groups. In January, Focus published “Yearbook 2009: Extreme Weather Events”; in July, “Project 2010: Confronting the Legacy of the GMA Regime”; in August, “The Clean Development Mechanism: Costly Dirty Money-making Schemes.”

In September, Focus Philippines launched the pilot issue of its new quarterly publication *Policy Review*, a newsletter-format publication, aimed at providing support for policy making, political campaigning and social-political advocacy through information and analyses critical to policy making and action. The October-December special edition of *Policy Review* carried the theme “Climate Change and Climate Justice”.

Reclaiming the Commons Programme

- The Asia research on alternatives to privatisation has been completed for the health, water and sanitation, and electricity sectors. The outputs will be included in the Municipal Services Project (MSP) book to be published by Routledge around the first half of 2011. Focus hosted the MSP Steering Committee meeting in April 2010. A Seminar on the MSP was also held in New Delhi at the sidelines of the Steering Committee Meeting.
- A total of 50 community-based 'action researchers' have been trained in Cambodia in 2009-2010; these action researchers are now documenting local land problems and working with affected villages to organise against land grabs by agricultural investment companies.
- Focus staff participated in a field study with farmers in Laos on the local economy; the official report of the study was released in June; a Focus Occasional Paper publication based on the study was prepared in December.
- Focus was one of the international convenors of the first Reclaiming Public Water (RPW) Network global strategy meeting in early 2010 in Brussels. The network promotes progressive forms of public and community water management and believes in the power of democratic alternatives to water privatisation and commodification. Focus is part of the newly formed facilitation group that will oversee the progress of the network. Focus is anchoring the work of the network in Asia -- Southeast, East, and South Asia.
- Focus organised a regional workshop on Food, Livelihoods and Climate Change in the Mekong region with other regional organisations; this was the first regional workshop in the Mekong region in the past few years on climate change issues that brought together participants from all the Mekong countries to discuss how food and livelihood security are being affected by climate change and proposals to tackle climate change.
- Focus organised a meeting on Chinese investments in the Mekong region: again, this was the first regional meeting in the past few years that brought together participants from all the Mekong countries and China to share the impacts of Chinese investments in the Mekong region.
- Research was conducted and documented on land grabbing and agricultural investments in the Asia region, especially in the Philippines and Mekong countries. These fed into existing local and national campaigns.

- On request, Focus contributed inputs to various papers/reports prepared by the UN Special Rapporteur Olivier de Schutter on the relations between land tenure, land rights, agricultural production models and the Right to Food.
- Along with other members of the Global Campaign on Agrarian Reform (GCAR), Focus prepared and launched a statement rejecting the World Bank-initiated Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI). Later in the year, Focus/GCAR also released a briefing paper that discusses the problems with the RAI. Both these documents were widely circulated, used by social movements, civil society organisations and researchers.
- A primer for social movements and grassroots organisations with briefing papers on various topics with the theme of defending land and the commons in the 21st century was released online.
- Focus coordinated with the Land Research Action Network to contribute several articles to the Development Journal on global land grabbing issues. Focus staff worked on the introduction on land grabbing, a paper on Cambodia and Laos, and a paper on land and climate.
- The study in India on the “Problems of Marginal Farmers in the Context of Changing Technology and Economic Environment” was completed in December 2010. Focus India staff coordinated a survey-cum-study in Maharashtra. The report will be released to the public and media on 31st January 2011 in New Delhi.
- The research project on "Study of the Widows of Cotton Growing Farmers of Vidarbha" was completed. The report will be published around February 2011.

Peace and Democracy Programme

- *India-Pakistan - release of arrested fisherfolk.* Focus India took the initiative along with its allies, in both India and Pakistan, to hold the first roundtable in April 2010 involving various stakeholders related to the issue of arrested fisherfolk. After months of deliberations, and lobbying with the Governments, filing of petitions in the respective Supreme Courts, we saw the release of long-term arrested fisherfolk and other civilian prisoners from both sides. More than 500 Indian fishermen in Pakistani prisons and around 200 Pakistani prisoners in Indian prisons (including fishermen) were released.

- *Flotilla to break the Gaza Siege.* Focus participated in the international flotilla to break the siege on Gaza (May 2010) which was attacked by the Israeli Navy. There was a worldwide uproar and condemnation of this attack, which was followed with massive demonstrations all over the world. This and the condemnation of the Israeli government by the international community at large obliged Israel to alleviate its blockade on Gaza. This was a major achievement of the international solidarity movement with Palestine. But the blockade still stands, and more work will be needed to help liberate Gaza.

- *India-Pakistan at Crossroads: A Roadmap towards Peace.* Since the breakdown of the India-Pakistan peace talks after the 26/11 attacks on Mumbai, Focus took initiatives in putting together a conference which included the participation of delegates from India and Pakistan, including from disputed areas like Kashmir and Baluchistan, and a wide cross-section of civil society groups and the political spectrum.

- *Kashmir Solidarity.* Focus India took initiatives in setting up two parallel tracks - 1) setting up a working group on Kashmir in Mumbai in coordination with similar groups elsewhere and 2) assisting the Centre for Policy and Analysis in organising a 'goodwill' parliamentary mission to Kashmir and subsequently setting up a committee to continue working on this process.

Climate Justice Campaign

- Focus conducted ground-breaking climate justice workshops in China, in the provinces of Yunnan, Anhui and Beijing, introducing more than 200 local participants to key climate justice concepts and facilitating discussion and links between academics, NGOs, government officials and community activists.

- Focus contributed several chapters, including country case studies and an Asia regional paper, to an international research collaboration on climate finance governance.

- As reported in the Reclaiming the Commons section above, Focus organised a three-day workshop on climate justice for activists from China, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Burma and Vietnam to share perspectives on climate change and climate justice.

- Consolidation of the Philippine Movement For Climate Justice (PMCJ) as a grassroots network pushing for climate justice, both in terms of structures and positions. PMCJ organised two major events in 2010 that helped define its particular role in the climate debate/discourse in the Philippines— The Makeshift for Climate Justice: Philippine Conference held as a parallel event to the People’s Climate Summit at Cochabamba in April 2010, and the 12-days of Action for Climate Justice parallel to the UN Climate Summit (COP 16) in Cancun in December 2010.
- The Focus Report on CDM in the Philippines “Costly, Dirty, Money-making Scheme” by Herbert Docena became the basis for PMCJ study sessions on CDM. It was also the basis of inputs to other groups such as the Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance (GAIA) working on CDM and waste collection, and the case study on CDM in the Philippines for the climate finance governance project reported above.
- Focus established a communications channel with the Thai government focal point on climate change negotiations (attending internal briefings of the government negotiating team and securing a place for one Thai Climate Justice Working Group (TCJ) representative in the official delegation to COP16).
- The TCJ and its grassroots groups and networks allies successfully pressed the Thai government to review its 10-year National Climate Action Plan on grounds that the Plan appeared mainly to serve corporate interests, and did not deal effectively with climate change. The Thai Prime Minister finally, in the first week of January 2011, responded by ordering a revision of the Plan in consultation with all stakeholders.
- Together with TCJ and its allies, Focus organised the Thai People’s Forum for Climate Justice 2010 in Bangkok at the time of UN Climate Summit in Cancun, in response to the call by La Via Campesina to hold alternative platforms under the campaign “1,000 Cancuns for Climate Justice”. Around 1,000 people from all over Thailand participated in the event which was widely reported in the public media.
- Focus contributed a chapter on the Climate Justice Movement to the London School of Economics Yearbook 2010.

DEGLOBALISATION PROGRAMME

Finance

Since most of the finance work involving monitoring the IFIs has been in collaboration with the Reclaiming the Commons and Climate Justice programmes, it was decided in the staff meeting in August 2010 that Finance would cease to be a separate sub-programme. The remaining work related to monitoring the G20 would be merged with the Trade sub-programme.

Focus staff participated in an international conference on financial and economic trends and human rights in Geneva. Titled *Human Rights in the Global Economy*, the conference was organised by the International Council on Human Rights Policy and Realizing Rights, and brought together academics, human rights activists, lawyers, business representatives and researchers to debate the how human rights can influence the global financial and economic regimes. Focus staff made presentations in sessions on financial regulation, trade and the use of human rights framework in popular campaigns on economic policy.

Trade

Resisting bilateral and regional free trade agreements became the primary emphasis of Focus' trade work in 2010. Across our three country programmes, we worked to consolidate people's platforms to resist these FTAs, providing information and analysis, facilitating processes to consolidate peoples' demands and perspectives, and helping to articulate these perspectives through media and direct engagements with governments and regional institutions and mechanisms.

Of the several FTA negotiations and proposals facing the region, the EU FTAs with India and Southeast Asia, became a priority as we saw new developments in the negotiations for these agreements. The EU-India FTA negotiations were already on the 9th round and critical issues have emerged which could have far reaching implications on jobs and livelihoods. The EU-ASEAN FTA negotiations on the other hand have completely shifted to the bilateral approach with the launch of the EU-Singapore negotiations and the start of preliminary talks with Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia.

The conclusion of the India-ASEAN FTA talks in 2009 also opened up an area for developing a framework for policy analysis and closer coordination and joint campaigns across the three Focus country offices on South-South cooperation. An initial concept note has been drafted and preliminary research conducted on south-south trade with the aim of first initiating country level discussions, and later on organising a regional meeting to develop and consolidate a framework of analysis.

At the national level, we continued to engage respective governments to push for better, more transparent and participatory trade negotiation and policy-making processes and more responsive trade policies.

INDIA

Focus, as a key member of the Forum against FTAs, is engaged in monitoring and campaigning against different bilateral and regional Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) which the Government of India has negotiated or is negotiating with developed and the developing countries. The Forum against FTAs is an informal coalition of groups from across India. The coalition's main aim is to provide timely information on India's negotiating stance, meet with trade negotiators and political parties to reverse the bilateral free trade trend that is gaining currency in policy circles. Analysis and press statements from the Forum can be accessed at www.forumaganistftas.org.

India is currently negotiating some 20 FTAs with the European Union, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), China, Gulf Cooperation Council, (GCC), Turkey, Israel and others. India has already concluded around 10 FTAs, with Sri Lanka, South Korea and Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) and others. These trade negotiations are taking place in secrecy without adequate consultations with State Governments and affected constituencies. Many of these FTAs are not just trade deals, but encompass a wide range of areas such as services liberalisation, investment rules, infrastructure operations, government procurement, intellectual property rights, competition policy and food standards. The Government of India signing of such deals not only violates the federal structure of the Indian Constitution but, sans any Parliamentary approval, also undermines representative democracy. It reduces policy space with serious impacts on farmers, labour, fisherfolk, hawkers, women, dalits, and indigenous peoples/adivasis and compromises the rights of the community over natural resources.

India - EU FTA: In 2010, Focus has mainly concentrated on the Indo EU FTA for which 9 rounds of negotiations have alternately been held at Brussels and New Delhi. The last

such round was held in April-May 2010. The UPA plans to conclude this FTA by the end of 2010. Though the FTA negotiations with EU cover a wide range of issues such as goods, services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Rules of Origin, Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation, Competition, Trade Defence mechanism, Government Procurement, Dispute Settlement, IPR & GIs, yet the parliament, state governments and trade unions have been kept in the dark on this trade deal which will have far-reaching consequences for our farmers and workers and will limit our policy space. Reports indicate that Indian negotiators have agreed for a massive slashing of import duties (up to 90%) to open up the Indian market for highly subsidised Europeans agricultural goods, yet the massive subsidies given for agriculture in EU is kept out of the ambit of this treaty. Strangely, the negotiators have agreed to include even those areas which have been kept out of the WTO such as competition policy, IPR and public procurement.

Focus, individually and as member of Forum against FTAs, is working with farm unions, fisher folk, trade unions and political parties to raise our objections to the FTA with EU. This FTA will have serious implications for the agriculture sector because it will impact our ability to diversify, to develop value added products and industries and services related to agriculture. Issues that we have highlighted in the campaign include the demand by European negotiators to push WTO, plus IPR provisions that will end the farmer's rights to save and exchange seeds, and will result in the loss of the farmer's plant varieties and valuable traditional agricultural knowledge.

The FTA campaign demands that the UPA government stop all negotiations on the India EU FTA unless current negotiating drafts and proposals are debated and discussed in the Indian parliament as well as with the state governments. We also demanded that the government of India must put an end to illogical free trade in agriculture (whether through FTAs, WTO or through its own policies) which only serves to weaken our national capacity to ensure the wellbeing of our people and ecology.

To put forth its views and demands, Focus along with the members of the FTA Forum organised three demonstrations in 2010, on 30th April, 25th May and 6th October, in front of the Ministry of Commerce in New Delhi when the 9th round of negotiations were held in Brussels and New Delhi respectively. During the demonstrations, Focus also joined a small delegation which met with senior trade negotiators, like PC Choudhury, amongst others. On 13th April, Focus along with few members of the FTA Forum met with Commerce Minister (State rank) Jyotiraditya Scindia. On 27th April, Forum members also met with a delegation of nine European Parliamentarians, led by Liberal Democrat MEP, Graham

Watson of UK, who visited New Delhi for an EU-India Inter Parliamentary meeting and expressed their concerns on the EU India FTA. On this occasion, Focus made a short presentation on the goods negotiations, mainly agriculture, and how this trade deal would impact our farmers and their livelihood.

Four large farmers unions, the All India Kisan Sabha (4 Ashoka Road), All India Kisan Sabha (4 Windsor Place), Akragami Kisan Sabha and Samyukta Kisan Sabha, representing the four key left political parties of India, jointly organised a National Round Table on the issue of free trade agreements (FTA) with European Union and Israel, and their impact on Indian agriculture in New Delhi in July. This was attended several member of parliaments and member of state legislatures including the West Bengal agriculture minister Mr. Naren Dey. Focus on the Global South was invited to speak on the EU India FTA and its impact on Indian agriculture. The roundtable adopted a resolution which demanded:

- No FTA should be signed without the approval of the Parliament and State Governments.
- Immediate release of the negotiating texts in the public domain,
- Widespread consultations with State Governments, Farmers' representatives, Experts and Scientists,
- Strengthen Trade Barriers and Provisions that Protect Indian Agriculture, Dairy and Public Health Concerns,
- A White Paper on WTO and its Impact on Indian Peasantry.

On 13th November, as part of the Forum against FTAs, we held a briefing meeting and interaction with the Green Party Member of the European Parliament, Ms Franziska Keller and the Communist Party of India (CPI) member in the Indian Parliament, Mr. D. Raja at the Constitution Club in New Delhi, in order to voice concerns and discuss issues pertaining to the proposed EU-India Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement. The meeting was organised in the context of the upcoming EU-India Business Summit in Brussels, Belgium in early December 2010. The main purpose was to highlight the implications for the people of India. The meeting brought together several representatives of social movements, NGOs and concerned individuals. Participants representing various trade organisations, fish workers' union and people's movements, aired their concerns regarding the impact of the FTA on various communities of India. The meeting called for coordinated lobbying at both ends. The fact that neither Indian nor European members of

Parliament have access to the texts or processes is a matter of grave concern. Lastly, there was clear need to broad-base local struggles and magnify people's concerns. The meeting was video recorded and 8 short clips of the meeting are available on the internet <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKpkvxhBInM>.

As part of this collaboration between Indian and EU civil societies, a joint statement was launched in Brussels during the round of negotiations held there in November. This was also sent to the Indian Prime Minister ahead of his visit to Brussels for the India EU Summit on 8th December 2010. This statement was signed by 112 individuals and 117 organisations, movements, civil society groups from across the world raising their concern regarding the proposed EU-India FTA.

On 6th November, Focus participated at the FTA consultation called by the Economic Research Foundation (ERF), Medecins Sans Frontieres, Third World Network and Delhi Science Forum at Constitution club in Delhi to examine the role of the FTAs, specifically look at some of the negotiating texts of the Indo-EU FTA to formulate concrete positions that India should pursue, and also plan for a larger convention towards the end of November this year.

As part of this initiative, Focus also joined in drafting a note on the impact of Indo EU FTA on Indian agriculture.

India-South Korea FTA: Youngmee Choi, an intern with the Focus Delhi office did a report on the India - Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which was officially signed in Seoul on August 7, 2009, and was immediately put into effect in India. For Korea, with the passage of the ratification agreement bill on November 6, 2009, the Agreement took effect on January 1, 2010. This is in a draft stage and it will be further developed by the trade team for publication

India-ASEAN FTA: Focus continues to work closely with the Kerala Independent Fishworkers Federation to analyse the impact of this FTA which was signed with the 10 member bloc of South-East Asian nations in August 2009, and was operationalised from January 2010 with three ASEAN members (Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia). From June 2010 onwards India implemented this FTA with two more ASEAN countries -- Vietnam and Myanmar -- by slashing duties on hundreds of products, including seafood, chemicals, apparel and tyres. For the rest of the ASEAN members, this Agreement will come into force after they complete their internal requirements.

However ASEAN and India are also aiming to conclude FTAs in services and investment sectors by end of this year. However, there is some amount of reservations among countries like Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, who prefer Free Trade Agreements at the bilateral levels rather than formalise a pluri-lateral deal on services and investment.

India-Israel FTA: Focus hosted a meeting in May 2010 at its Delhi office on the emerging India-Israel FTA. Participants at the meeting included representatives from the Boycott Disinvestment and Sanctions (BDS) and Stop the Wall Campaign, Forum against FTAs and Campaign for Palestine Solidarity. Key issues identified for future research work included agriculture and industrial goods.

India-Sri Lanka FTA: Focus continues to view the India Sri Lanka FTA, which will now be further expanded into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), as detrimental to the working classes and agriculture groups but beneficial to big business in India and in Sri Lanka. The FTA Forum, along with like-minded groups in Sri Lanka, issued a joint India-Sri Lanka People's Statement for Cultivating Peace and not Free Trade Agreements, which opposes the move towards CEPA. The Indian peoples' experience with the Sri Lankan FTA shows that it has had a devastating impact on agricultural livelihoods in states such as Kerala. Suicides among farmers in Kerala saw a sharp rise with the implementation of ISFTA. The same FTA has also had a negative impact on the Sri Lankan side, which explains the anti-India sentiment on the proposed CEPA.

South Asia

Focus, as part of the Forum against FTAs, organised a workshop on trade liberalisation in South Asia on 21 April 2010, during the Peoples SAARC event in New Delhi. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the need for an alternative trade paradigm for the region. The workshop came to the conclusion that there is an urgent need to build strong links between trade unions, mass organisations and other social movements in the region, in particular within sectors and multinationals, in order to develop common regional strategies to counter imperialist globalisation. South Asian Economic Cooperation, it was felt, has to be based on complementarities between economies of the region, the concept of non-reciprocity and special and differential treatment. For such a transformation in trade policy to take place the need for an expansion of the role of trade unions and other mass organisations in the policy framing process was emphasised.

Regional EU-ASEAN Campaign Network Initiatives

The campaign on EU FTA was the focus of the Southeast Asia regional trade work of Focus in 2010. The start of the formal negotiations between EU and Singapore for a comprehensive and ambitious free trade agreement in March 2010 meant that the EU strategy of shifting the approach from the regional to the bilateral talks was now in full swing. Energised by the initial outcome of those negotiations, the EU has become more confident in its pronouncements on how these bilateral talks would now proceed. After Singapore, the EU then launched bilateral talks with Malaysia in October 2010. Preliminary talks have already been initiated with Vietnam and Thailand. Countries on the second tier of the EU bilateral approach—Indonesia and the Philippines- also conveyed renewed interest in pursuing talks with the EU. These two countries can in fact be considered to a certain extent as ‘countries in waiting’ since both Indonesia and the Philippines have already secured Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCA) with the EU, a requirement set by the EU for its free trade agreements with partners in Southeast Asia.

At the regional level, the EU-ASEAN FTA Campaign Network consolidated its plans and fine-tuned its strategies in order to address the current context.

Finalisation of the Campaign Plan. The 2010 Campaign Plan which was initially drafted in the regional strategy meeting in Manila (March 2009) and refined in Bangkok (October 2009) underwent final fine-tuning in the first quarter of the year and finalised at the regional coordinators meeting in Jakarta in April 2010. Further refinements for 2011 were done in a strategy meeting organised in Bangkok during the two-day meeting on *FTA with EU- Opportunities and Risks for Thailand and ASEAN* held on 25-26 November in Bangkok

AEPF and EU-ASEAN Network consultations. As convenor of the trade working group of the Asia Europe Peoples Forum, the EU-ASEAN network worked closely with the AEPF Asia Secretariat in organising two (2) public forums in the Philippines (February 18) and Indonesia (April 29) on the new challenges of EU-ASEAN relations. Both forums featured discussions with respective EU Ambassadors and workshops on a range of multi-sectoral issues on trade and investments, climate and environment, and labour and migration.

Civil Society Briefing: Perspectives on Free Trade Agreements and Economic Cooperation in the ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia. A series of briefing sessions organised by the Southeast Asian Committee for Advocacy (SEACA) together with the Southeast Asian Peoples Centre (SEAPC) to discuss civil society advocacies to the diplomatic community from the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and other ASEAN dialogue partners. The specific session on trade was held on April 28, 2010 where the EU-

ASEAN Network made a presentation on the state of play of the negotiations and key concerns from civil society and network member Institute for Global Justice (IGJ) discussed the ASEAN-Australia, New Zealand FTA.

Meetings with groups in Singapore, 17-20 May 2010. In an effort to establish linkages with groups in Singapore and explore possible campaign efforts there, two meetings were held in May with UNI-APRO and with trade policy unit of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). Both meetings contributed to a better understanding of Singapore trade and investment policies as well as the terrain for civil society engagement in Singapore. The meeting with UNI-APARO opened the possibilities for collaborative work on ASEAN related capacity building programmes.

Other Network Activities. The network spearheaded several regional activities in 2010. Responding to a request from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), the network organised a seminar on Trade and FTAs for staffers of FES in Hanoi on 26 August. It organised and conducted a workshop on ASEAN Trade at the ASEAN Peoples' Forum in Hanoi on 25 September. As part of the Asia Europe Peoples Forum (AEPF) the network organised the workshop on trade and crisis (2 October), strategy meeting on EU FTAs (3 October) and participated in the dialogue on FTAs with European Parliament (5 October).

Pursuing the campaign objective of pushing for greater transparency and access to information on the FTA negotiations, the network became actively involved in the emerging campaign for an ASEAN Freedom of Information (FOI) protocol. Focusing on the specific issue of transparency in trade negotiations, the network co-organised two important meetings on ASEAN FOI in 2010, a strategy meeting on ASEAN FOI entitled "*Building Community through Information and Access: Strategizing towards an ASEAN Protocol on Freedom of Information*" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (19 September), and a follow-up meeting "*Moving the FOI Campaign*" in ASEAN Campaign Sharing and Strategy Meeting 25 October 2010 in Bangkok. The presentations made in these meetings will be consolidated as a chapter in a publication on ASEAN FOI to be published in 2011.

On Trade and Finance issues, the network sent a delegation to Peoples Action on the G20 Events in Seoul, South Korea and co-organised a forum on G20 and the Crisis with the global network Our World is not for Sale (OWINFS). Network members from the Philippines however were detained and deported from South Korea and therefore were unable to participate in the events in Seoul. Several media events however were organised in Manila highlighting the deportation of the Filipino activists and issues surrounding the G20 summit.

In terms of regional research, the network launched in October a research project on the EU Raw Materials Initiative. An offshoot of separate workshops on trade, and extractive industries at the AEPF in Brussels, the network together with Legal Rights Center/Friends of the Earth Philippines, and the anti-mining campaign network Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) developed a research agenda on the impact of the EU's raw materials initiative on extractive industries in the Philippines. Subsequently, a meeting was organised on 27 November 2010 in Bangkok among anti-coal and trade campaigners from Philippines and Indonesia where the proposal to expand the research project to cover Indonesia was discussed and agreed upon.

PHILIPPINES

Trade work in the Philippines was focused on re-convening the national network and defining ways to re-invigorate the national campaign on EU FTA.

Together with the Asia Europe Peoples Forum (AEPF), the Philippine network on the EU-ASEAN FTA became involved in a number of activities in preparation for the AEPF in Brussels. A Forum on EU-ASEAN and Philippine Relations and a briefing session and strategy meeting on EU-ASEAN FTA were held on 18 February.

Work on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) became more concrete as the network reconvened in June (June 23) to revisit the campaign plan and identify key areas of work for 2010-2011. The network members agreed to focus immediate attention on the PCA by issuing a press release and organising a dialogue with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The press release urging the new administration of President Noyonoy Aquino to disclose the contents of the PCA with the EU was issued in July. A formal letter from the network requesting a copy of the PCA and requesting a dialogue was sent to the DFA in late June. The Dialogue with DFA on the PCA was finally held in 15 November 2010.

Focus together with its partner networks the Stop the New Round Coalition (SNR) and the Philippine network on the EU-ASEAN FTA supported and joined the national campaign for the passage of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI).

Focus on the Global South, IDEALS and the AIM Policy Centre co-organised a forum entitled *Trade and Transparency: Rethinking Executive Privilege in Philippine Trade Policymaking and Economic Planning*. Focus made a presentation on the state of trade and transparency issues across the globe.

THAILAND

The trade work under the Thailand country programme in 2010 concentrated on the preparation for the EU-Thailand FTA, and the legal procedure regarding the 'Conclusion of Treaties Act' which was drafted and proposed by FTA Watch.

EU-Thailand FTA work: After the EU-AESAN FTA negotiation was put on hold in 2009, the EU has been pursuing Thailand for a bilateral negotiation. At this point, Singapore and Vietnam already entered into the bilateral process with the EU, while Thailand is next in the line. Under the 2007 Constitution, the government is required to submit the 'negotiation framework' for Parliamentary approval before any formal negotiation could commence. Following this requirement, one Focus staff and some members of FTA Watch were appointed by the Cabinet to be members of the public consultation committee in preparation for the drafting of the EU-ASEAN negotiation framework.

Between, April and July, four public consultations in four different regions of the country and one expert group meeting in Bangkok were organised. This development is a great step forward in terms of participation in a treaty making process, and an enlargement of political space for the poor and grassroots networks. It was the first time that such a process had been officially endorsed by the Thai state. Consequently, various concerns and ideas were proposed with the acknowledgement by the Ministry for Commerce. Still, there are clear challenges ahead. First, there have been several attempts over the last two years to roll-back of such a process through the Constitution amendment and replace this with a regressive organic law by the Parliament. Second, public participation and transparency during the negotiation process itself, which is a crucial stage, is not guarantee under the constitution or in law, and remains a big challenge.

Conclusion of Treaties Act: Following the rejection by the House Speaker of the draft 'Conclusion of Treaties Act' (submitted to the Parliament by FTA Watch), led by Focus on the Global South, FTA Watch launched a court case against the House Speaker and the Secretary General of the Parliament Office. The case was submitted to the Administrative Court. At this point, the court has accepted the case which is an important progress for the supporter of this Act and active citizens at large. First, the Administrative court sets a precedent where Thai citizens will have a chance to make an appeal in case the decision of the House Speaker is perceived to be unfair by the party involved. Second, if the case was won, it would establish a clearer political space for the participation in the legislative process of any civic groups. This legal procedure is a lengthy process, but without doubt, an important one. At the same time, Focus on the Global South continues to engage in the

Constitutional reform process where various forces are aiming to annul the progressive elements in Section 190 of the Constitution which governs treaty making process.

Alternative Regionalisms

Work on the Alternative Regionalisms sub-programme have centred on two sub-regions – South Asia and Southeast Asia, particularly on the inter-governmental Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); and on the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) as an bi-regional platform.

Much of the work is focused on alternative civil society platforms that meet and strategise on sub- and inter-regional issues, and/or parallel the official processes of the ASEAN, SAARC and ASEM.

Work on ASEAN

Despite political and staff constraints, Focus made good contributions to the ASEAN People's Forum (APF) held on 23-25 September. In the Philippines, Focus played a supportive role to a Philippine process led by groups new to ASEAN engagement. Focus made presentations and committed other resources for the national delegates' preparatory process in Thailand. Focus also attended as a regional organisation the preparatory meetings called by the Hanoi hosts, and volunteered to one of the limited non-voting seats to the new Hanoi APF Programme Committee. Focus organised workshops at the Hanoi APF, one on regional trade integration and cooperation with the EU-ASEAN FTA campaign network, and one the environment and climate change.

Focus co-organised and participated in the post-Hanoi APF ACSC process with SAPA WG on ASEAN on 25-28 October. Focus hosted a strategy meeting on FOI, participated in the SAPA assessment of the APF, and facilitated and hosted a press conference during the media blitz.

On 30 November-1 December, Focus staff spoke at the ASEAN and CSR conference in Singapore. The conference was participated in by the ASEAN Secretariat, MFA officials from ASEAN countries, representatives from the business sector, CSR proponents, and other civil society groups. Focus staff gave a critical presentation on CSR, arguing that it is imperative to recognise that the different trade and investment regimes developed in the ASEAN in fact facilitate more concessions for the business sector, and therefore a voluntary CSR will not be enough to respond to emerging needs.

In December, Focus staff spoke at one of the early national preparatory processes for Indonesia's hosting of the APF/ACSC in 2011.

ASEAN FOI Handbook (Special Project). Since 2009, Focus has been discussing with partners and other stakeholders the possibility of launching a campaign on freedom of information at the ASEAN. Focus first introduced the idea publicly to ASEAN officials, the diplomatic community and campaigners in the November 2009 ASEAN Multi-stakeholder Symposium on Engaging Civil Society.

In September, Focus participated in the Workshop on Emerging Socio-Cultural Concerns in ASEAN in Kuala Lumpur organized by SEACA. Together with the EU-ASEAN FTA Campaign Network, i-FOI and SEAPA, Focus organised the panel "*Building Community through Information and Access: Strategizing towards an ASEAN Protocol on Freedom of Information*". The panel was the first public event on ASEAN FOI and became the basis for further work to build a campaign on FOI at the ASEAN level. It was also the first event where some interest on the issue was generated. A follow-up meeting "*Moving the FOI Campaign in ASEAN*" Campaign Sharing and Strategy Meeting was held on 25 October in Bangkok. A decision was reached to form a Task Force on ASEAN FOI, for proposal to the SAPA WG on ASEAN, with the objective of campaigning on FOI issues at the ASEAN level.

The presentations made in these meetings will be consolidated as a chapter in a publication on ASEAN FOI to be published in 2011. Main contributors are Focus, the Institute for Freedom of Information, Action for Economic Reforms, EU-ASEAN FTA Campaign Network, Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact, and the Southeast Asian Press Alliance. The concept paper and style guide were developed, consulted and agreed to, and chapter assignments were distributed to contributors. By middle of December, all contributors for the handbook have handed in their abstracts, and Terms of References were signed with them.

Work on PSAARC

Focus has been a co-organiser of the People's SAARC or PSAARC. This year the PSAARC held the *Assembly towards a Union of South Asian Peoples* at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India on 22-23 April. Focus was in the Steering and the Logistics Committee for the event. Along with others in the core organising group, Focus is committed to taking the process forward in the future. The apparent lack of interest among Indian civil society in general on regional issues, except the issue of India and Pakistan, makes this a rather difficult task. Nonetheless, Focus is in the PSAARC working groups on militarism, trade, migration, and is in the process of conducting research and publications on these issues as a contribution towards the conceptualisation of a people's union of South Asia.

Work on AEPF

Focus remained in the International Organising Committee and Co-convenor of three Working Groups/Sub-themes: EU-Asia WG on FTAs, Climate and South Asia. In the last AEPF in Brussels in October, we worked with the Belgian National Host organisation 11.11.11 to organise the whole forum as well as the workshops on Trade/FTA, Climate and Peace and Democracy. A major achievement of the Brussels AEPF is the Policy Dialogues with EU DGs. We co-organised (wrote concept papers and facilitated) the high level Policy Dialogues on Trade, Climate Change, and Peace. Focus staff were also speakers in the press conferences.

At this point, the AEPF network is reviewing its work and is re-organising its structure and we are an active part of that effort. The network is already on its 16th year and seeks new ways of work given the changed politics since it was established.

Work on Alternative Regionalisms Network: SAPA, PAAR

Focus is a co-convenor of the Solidarity for Asian Peoples' Advocacies (SAPA), a regional network that tracks inter-governmental processes. SAPA held its fourth General Assembly in Kathmandu, Nepal on March 26 and 27. This was the first time the SAPA GF was held in South Asia, in the hope of expanding the South Asian membership, or at the very least energizing the Southeast-South Asia linkages between the different networks. In SAPA, Focus is a member of the Regional Steering Committee as co-convenor, the Working Group (WG) on ASEAN, the WG on Migration and Labour, the WG on Rural Development, and has initiated to energize a WG on Environment.

Focus is also part of the People's Agenda for Alternative Regionalisms (PAAR) which seeks to establish more inter-regional exchanges on issues of common concern, at the moment defined as the opportunities regionalisms or regional cooperation present in responding to the multiple global crises. PAAR's last major activity was the conference in Asuncion, Paraguay in July 2009. Called *Regional Integration: An Opportunity to Face the Crises*, the conference brought together around 100 representatives from social movements, parliaments and governments. Some PAAR members and collaborators also participated in PAAR co-sponsored workshop or public meetings at the APF 1 and 2 in Bangkok and Cha-am in 2009.

Critical Discourse on Alternatives

The Development Roundtable Series (DRTS): The activities of the Development Roundtable Series for 2010 revolved around the finalisation and validation of the thematic working groups' integrative papers. Also, with a new administration in power, the DRTS network sponsored a forum in Manila on President Aquino's first 100 days, and the social-political-economic prognosis given the early reading of government policies and pronouncements. An event on the same topic was held in Mindanao, along with a series of forums in Mindanao which tackled the issues of the DRTS Mindanao, Visayas, Water and Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ARRD).

The integrative papers are results of the integration process which was started in 2008. The integration process represents the cumulative cross-thematic work of the different Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) on the six Development Roundtable Series (DRTS) thematic areas: Trade and Industrial Policy, Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ARRD), Peace and Foreign Policy, Water Resources and Services, Visayas, and Mindanao.

The draft integrative papers of the Mindanao, Visayas, ARRD, and Water Resources and Services Thematic Working Groups, one of the key outputs of the integration process, have undergone validation through presentation to the sectors concerned as well as academic institutions. This is to broaden further the network involved in the DRTS process and to garner suggestions as well as support for the recommendations contained in the various thematic integrative papers.

After the review of the integrative papers of the Trade and Industrial Policy Thematic Working Group during the DRTS Core Group Meeting held from 11 to 13 October, 2010, it was agreed that additional research is needed for the integrative paper on trade and industrial policy and additional research on the proposed privatisation of the National Food Authority (NFA). The additional research will also be undertaken to update the discussions based on the current public-private partnership policy pronouncement by the new Aquino administration.

The Peace and Foreign Policy integrative paper has not been finalised but is expected to be presented to the TWG members and a panel of peace and foreign policy experts by January 2011.

The agreement during the DRTS Core Group meeting would be to convene an Editorial Board composed of select members from the different TWGs. It would be the task of the Editorial Board to identify the cross-cutting issues in the integrative papers and how an interface with different thematic should be achieved after the validation process of the different papers.

In 2011, the phase of agenda-building and advocacy work based on the recommendations contained in the various integrative papers will be pursued.

Outside of the integration process, the different TWGs also conducted activities on issues relevant to their specific thematic:

- Two meetings have been held between the core group members of four DRTS thematic (ARRD, Peace and Foreign Policy, Trade and Industrial Policy and Water) to discuss the holding of the yearly SONA (State of the Nation Address) conference. The initial plan is to hold a post-SONA conference instead of the usual pre-SONA conference.
- The DRTS Mindanao co-sponsored with AFRIM a Roundtable Discussion on Overseas Aid and Agrarian Reform in Mindanao: Critical Reflections and Advocacy Positions.
- The DRTS Peace and Foreign Policy thematic with Stop the War Coalition co-sponsored two roundtables on the Palestine struggle for self-determination and the other on the Ship to Gaza Flotilla incident.

Deconstructing Discourse and Activist Retooling Programme (DDARP):

The Focus on the Global South's Deconstructing Discourse and Activist Retooling Programme is a project that aims to revisit debates on contemporary development issues, ideologies and paradigms and introduce new frontiers in analyses and perspectives to contribute to knowledge production, critical discourse and political action. The DDARP features programmatic short-term courses (lecture series) and one-time public lectures/roundtable discussions by nationally and internationally acclaimed scholars, researchers, and activists that are leading experts in their respective fields.

The DDARP courses/lectures are designed to be broad based, cross-cultural, and interdisciplinary. Visiting lecturers come from a wide range of disciplines and traditions in the social sciences, and with varying experience and background as public scholars. The main audiences are students and the youth; the lectures are also intended to appeal to the

academe, media, government officials and activists who are at the forefront of today's political debates. Usually, two speaker tours or lecture series are targeted each year.

In 2010, no big lecture tours were held under DDARP. Originally, two speaker tours were planned: a speaker tour of Ms. Maude Barlow to focus on the global water crisis, issues and climate change and a speaker tour of Dr. Chandra Muzaffar on the issue of right to self-determination. Preparations for Ms. Barlow's lecture tour in March were completed, along with arrangements with development partners in Manila (UN, Government agencies, CSOs) and Cebu (water district, the university, CSO, the local government) and media, but Ms. Barlow had to cancel due to a family emergency. The same preparations were repeated for November, but Ms. Barlow had to cancel again. Dr. Muzaffar's tour is being postponed to the second half of 2011.

Instead of the big tours, DDARP had smaller events. In February, it showed the documentary on the Palestine conflict titled "White Elephant", followed by a discussion. In May, it organised a forum on the *"The Political Crisis in Thailand: Democracy, Power, People"* with key Thai activist, academics and journalists in attendance. Focus prepared an audio-visual presentation on the red/yellow dynamics in Thailand for the event.

In Thailand, the six-week long most visible protest by the United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship (Red Shirts) in April-May, have brought into sharper focus the political and economic divide in a country that has undergone in the last three decades of globalisation and democratisation processes. With socio-political and economic reform being high on the national agenda, various groups and movements have begun to hold discussions on the important issues highlighted by the protest: social justice and equity. In July, Focus organised a public seminar entitled *Challenges for Social Movements under Representative Democracy* for Peter Rosset and Walden Bello to share their experience and analysis from Latin America and Southeast Asia on the different dilemmas the progressive movements face when confronted by contested systems. In attendance were Thai social movements, NGOs and academics.

China-India People to People Exchange

Considering the increasing influence and importance of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in all major political arenas – the World Bank and IMF, UNFCCC negotiations, G20 and various trade forums - we deem it extremely interesting that the focus of our 2010 People to People Exchange was China and India. The popular thesis is that the two countries will become the world's dominant suppliers of manufactured goods

and services. In the climate negotiations their plans and proposals also carry much weight in the G77 and China bloc.

With their combined population and economic importance, their role in addressing the current climate crisis and the search for equity-based transition to low carbon economy is extremely crucial. With these in mind we organised the China-India Exchange with emphasis on how the two countries are responding to the climate challenge and how movements and NGOs engage in the climate policy making, as well as in alternatives building.

The first part was a visit by Chinese participant to India from 26 October-4 November. The four participants from China were a climate and environmental journalist who writes for China Daily, 2 staff from NGO environmental NGOs (based in Yunnan and Fujian provinces) and a policy analyst from a university in Anhui province. The delegation was joined by two staff from the Focus China programme. The intensive tour included several meetings and sessions with policy makers, climate scientists, trade unions, film makers, academicians and activists in New Delhi on issues ranging from climate science, green jobs, energy, hydro dams, UNFCCC politics, urban transport and pollution and forestry issues.

A field trip to a national forest in Uttar Pradesh and a dam site in Uttarakhand were also organised. Two meetings were held in Uttar Pradesh: one was a public meeting on forestry issues attended by almost 200 people, the other one was a smaller group with around 20 leaders and opinion makers in the region. The second meeting was an exchange of impressions about China's transition and the challenges by China's planned economy. In Uttarakhand the group toured the relocation sites (new towns) where families were moved to give way to the construction of Tehri Dam and the reservoir of the dam itself where the original town of Tehri now lies under the waters. The exchanges between the Chinese and the community organisers and the communities' lawyer about the impact of this big hydropower dam and the social issues linked with relocation to new sites showed a lot of similarities with the case of big dams in China.

The second part of the project was the reverse visit of an Indian energy policy analyst and climate education activist, a researcher on food security and climate and a Mumbai-based journalist to Beijing. Three of the four Indians that participated in the trip also hosted the Chinese delegation in India. They were met by Focus NGO partners in Beijing, our contacts from policy institutes and media.

These exchange projects continue to be one of Focus' important means to connect Chinese activists with their counterparts in Asia. Personally experiencing the other reality and the mutual learning from such visits enhances understanding about the “whys” and the “how” in each environment and build very significant connections.

Papers and Presentations:

Entry of Corporate Retail: Impacts on Hawkers & Small Retailers: A case study from Mumbai by Chetan Choithani, Focus on the Global South, India, January 2010

European Union and India FTA: Impact on Indian Agriculture; Focus on the Global South, India, July 2010.

EU India FTA and Indian Agriculture, presentation by Afsar H. Jafri at the Forum against FTA members meeting with the visiting MEPs in New Delhi, 27 April 2010.

EU India FTA and Indian Agriculture, presentation by Afsar H. Jafri at the National Round Table on the issue of free trade agreements (FTA) with European Union and Israel, and their impact on Indian agriculture, jointly organised by the All India Kisan Sabha (4 Ashoka Road), All India Kisan Sabha (4 Windsor Place), Agragami Kisan Sabha and Samyukta Kisan Sabha in Delhi, 29 July. http://pd.cpim.org/2010/0808_pd/08082010_7.html

Food Security in Times of Crises. Speech delivered by Joseph Purugganan at the Opening Plenary of the Osaka Social Forum, 21 March, 2010.

EU-ASEAN FTA: A Partnership Among Equals? Presentations by Joseph Purugganan for the Civil Society Briefing for Diplomats (28 April) and at the plenary session of the Forum-Workshop on Social Movement Consolidation on the Recent Challenges of ASEAN - EU - Indonesia Relations, (29 April) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Briefing Paper on EU-Singapore FTA presented by Joseph Purugganan during meetings with Singapore groups (UNI-APRO and ISEAS) from 17-20 May in Singapore.

Discussion Paper on Trade and Transparency Across the Globe. Presentation by Joseph Purugganan at the Trade and Transparency Forum organised by Focus, IDEALS and the AIM Policy Centre, 27 May 2010. Revised paper presented at the KL workshop on ASEAN FOI, 19 September 2010 and *Moving the FOI Campaign in ASEAN* Campaign Sharing and Strategy Meeting, 25 October 2010 in Bangkok.

ASEAN FTAs and Fisheries. Presentation made via Skype by Joseph Purugganan at SEAFISH Conference on ASEAN. Jakarta, Indonesia, 26 July 2010.

Business as Usual Trade Policy in ASEAN. Speech delivered by Joseph Purugganan at the Asia-Europe Peoples Forums (AEPF 8), Thematic Workshop on Trade, 2 October 2010 in Brussels, Belgium.

ASEAN in a Changing World: The enemy is within. Presentaion by Chanida Chanyapate Bamford at the ASEAN Peoples' Forum, Hanoi, 24 September 2010.

An ASEAN Economic Community, Good; But Where's My Right to Information?, by Nepomuceno Malaluan and Jenina Joy Chavez, November 2010.

Greece: same tragedy, different scripts, by Walden Bello, July 2010.

Project 2010: Confronting the Legacy of the GMA Regime. Publication by Focus on the Global South, Philippines, launched on 13 July 2010.

New Economics for a New Administration, by Walden Bello, July 2010.

RECLAIMING THE COMMONS

Challenging Capitalist Agriculture

Philippines

In the first half of the year, Focus continued to anchor the *State of the Filipino Women amid Multiple Crises* project, a research process/platform with Welga ng Kababaihan, a multi-sectoral coalition of women struggling against globalisation, poverty and discrimination. Two multi-sectoral workshops were conducted: the first on 12 January, a levelling off session and the second, on 23 March, a sharing of the results of the focus group discussions. The two workshops discussed the state of the Filipino women in different sectors—fisheries, women in agriculture, formal labour, women in the export processing zones, migrants, prostituted women, informal labour and home-based workers, and how they are faring amid the different crises of food, financial/economic, climate/environment and governance/electoral. An initial draft which details the different experiences, challenges, and initiatives of women has been produced and will be presented at a validation workshop in March 2011, in time for the International Women's Day.

In the second half of the year, an initial draft on the joint research (with the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Kababaihan sa Kanayunan) on agrofuels in the Philippines was completed. Focus and PKKK conducted consultations with rural groups, one in Manila and another in the island of Negros, the main sugarcane-producing province in the country.

Focus also conducted an overview research on the involvement of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in the Philippines, which looked at the strategic sectors/focus of the institution, one of which is agriculture, and provided some potential trigger points for the IFC performance standards review. The paper was presented at the regional CSO Workshop and Strategy Meeting for the Review of the IFC Sustainability organised by Alyansa Tigil Mina, BIC, and PIPLINKS in July.

India

Focus worked with farmers' groups, especially the La Via Campesina members in India, to campaign against the draft seed bill, which provides for promotion of seeds industry and monopolisation of seeds by the seeds companies like Monsanto.

Focus also joined farmers' unions and the GMfree India campaign to build up a movement against the commercialisation of genetically modified (GM) foods, especially the Bt. Brinjal in India.

Focus worked with farmers' unions to oppose the Protection and Utilisation of Public Funded Intellectual Property Bill 2008 which mandates universities and research institutions funded by the government to create intellectual property out of the public research and to commercialise it. The scope of PUPFIP Bill covers plant varieties which would mean that all plant varieties developed through public funds would be protected under intellectual property rights. Mention specific work done. We wrote letters to the Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister to withdraw the provisions of plant varieties from this bill.

Focus staff participated as resource persons at the National Consultation on the Seeds Bill, 2010, organised by several groups in Delhi in June, to discuss the changes made in the seed bill 2004 through the recommendation of the parliamentary standing committee. The consultation decided to start a campaign to lobby with the parliamentarian to influence them to demand for further amendments to bring in price control over seeds, to fix the royalty over proprietary seeds and to increase the punitive action against seed companies in case of seed failure and genetic contamination.

Focus participated in the Roundtable on Land, Livelihood and Habitat, organised by the Centre for Policy Analysis, in Delhi on 26th March. The roundtable discussed possible policy initiatives that would need to be adopted to further the transformative politics in order to defeat corporate takeover of agriculture, resist corporatisation of land, water and seed, forest and minerals; and to move towards the socialisation of these basic resources.

Focus India was invited as the key resource person for the Uttar Pradesh regional convention of the All India Agragami Kisan Sabha, affiliated to the national political party, All India Forward Bloc, in Lucknow in September.

Focus India also joined the Kisan Swaraj Yatra for a day in Muzaffarpur on 23rd November when it held several events in the city. This bus Yatra started at Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat on 2nd October and travelled through 20 states to reach Delhi on 11th December.

The Yatra raised issues like support systems for farmers, remunerative prices, control over seeds, land and other resources, forced displacement and the vicious cycle of high-cost chemical agriculture.

In November, the La Via Campesina affiliated farmers from North India held a massive protests in New Delhi against the India visit of American President Barak Obama. Focus provided background support for this protests. The farmers were up against the signing of any kind of agreements with the US on agriculture or trade. In a letter submitted to the Prime Minister of India, they said that they do not want any bilateral agreement on agriculture with the US on the line of Indo US Knowledge Initiative of Agriculture, whether in the field of trade, biotechnology or irrigation. They also appealed to United Progressive Alliance government, headed by Manmohan Singh, not allow any market access in agricultural trade to United States, which the latter has been aspiring to gain through failed Doha negotiations, through a bilateral Indo-US trade deal.

In the last quarter of 2010, Focus held several discussion and meetings with the lead researchers of the study *Agrarian Crisis: Life at stake in Rural India* which was conducted under the purview of the Joshi Adhikari Institute of Social Studies, across eight states in the country. Focus India coordinated the field survey and research in the state of Maharashtra and also provided some financial support. In January 2009, the Joshi-Adhikari Institute undertook a survey of marginal farmers with an objective to study the impact of new technological and economic environment on the production and marketing patterns of marginal farmers. In each state four districts were selected covering the range of crops cultivated by marginal farmers and, in each district, four villages were selected randomly. In each village, basic information about the caste, religion, land holding and cropping pattern of around 150 households were collected. And from the listed households 10 households were selected for a detailed survey. In this survey, information on their resource base, crops cultivated, farm operations, seeds, fertilizers applied, marketing and incomes etc were collected. In this manner, a detailed survey of around 1,050 households was done and basic information of around 15,300 households was collected. In fact the information about village history, physical infrastructure, socio-economic structure and production details of crops cultivated in the village were also collected through this survey. The report was finally completed in December and it was decided to release it in January 2011. Focus India decided to co-organise the release of the report in Delhi.

Thailand

In coordination with CorpWatch Thailand, Focus has been gathering information about Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group's business expansion in the region, particularly on the vertically-integrated livestock-animal feed industry for which CP is most well-known, and which Focus' own studies have shown to involve unfair obligations and economic return for contract farmers. Focus role in the network is to monitor CP's activities in other countries. Beginning in July, Focus Thailand undertook a broader research on Thai agribusiness operations in the Mekong region as part of a regional project of Oxfam Hong Kong to develop a better understanding of the nature, scope, modalities and impacts of agro-industrialisation in the region. In October, Focus staff participated as resource persons in a regional workshop on agribusiness expansion, organised by Oxfam HK (OHK). The purpose of the workshop was to review the data gathered thus far in OHK's regional project and raise critical issues for further inquiry.

Regional and International

Focus started a collaboration with Social Action for Change (SAC), a Cambodian research group, to prepare an overview paper on contract farming in **Cambodia**. The first draft of the paper is ready and undergoing peer review and editing. Based on the findings, specific case studies of contract farming will be undertaken to better understand how the negotiating powers of farmers can be strengthened.

Focus started an exploratory study on agrofuels production in *the Mekong region*. The initial phase of the study is expected to yield a broad picture of the extent to which agrofuel crops are being promoted and grown in the region, the actual production of agrofuels in the region, and implications of these trends on food and livelihood security of smallhold farmers. The study has been completed, and the report is currently being edited for publication. Further research on agrofuels will be identified based on the findings of this initial phase.

In October, a Focus staff person participated in a workshop on agrofuels, labour, employment and livelihoods that was organised by the Freidrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) in Indonesia. The aim of the workshop was to share information about the spread of agrofuels in the Asia region and critically examine the impacts of agrofuel expansion on labour and employment.

Focus co-organised a Mekong-wide regional sharing and learning workshop to look at the current scope of Chinese investments in the region and assess the level of engagement by NGOs based in Burma, Cambodia, Lao, Thailand and Vietnam. The two-day event held on 12-13 August in Bangkok was organised in cooperation with International Rivers and Friends of the Earth US. It was attended by more than 50 people, twelve of which are from China and all the Mekong countries were represented.

Some of the major discussions in the plenary and workshop include sharing of norms, standards and regulatory frameworks applied in other governing bodies that can be applied to Chinese investments to make projects people-friendly. The common challenges faced by Mekong countries are on making foreign investments follow national laws, getting information about the companies or conglomerates and assisting people in upholding their rights. The space to engage Chinese investment ministries, local governments and companies that normally comprise the investing parties is still very small whether in China or in the Mekong countries.

Most of the participants from China are not yet working on investment and trade issues and they shared the problems they face in popularising information how Chinese investments affect neighbouring countries inside China. The media do not carry such reports and the general public is not interested to know or have no idea how they can engage in the discussion. However some are already working directly with Chinese companies and have already used the Chinese legal system to make companies responsible for ecological damage in China. There is no, or very little, appreciation about rights of consumers and it is not effective to use consumer campaigns. Although there are existing guidelines now for Chinese companies investing abroad, the Chinese NGOs still needed to understand the regulations and seek ways to improve them.

It was agreed that Focus, IR, FoE, together with more partners will hold similar event every other year to create solidarity between Chinese rights advocates and stakeholders/concerned groups from the Mekong countries.

PEOPLES FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Philippines

The scoping exercise on the *New agriculture framework* was dropped, due to shifts in priorities and capacity issues. However, Focus' existing research on the involvement of international financial institutions and overseas aid in the country's agriculture and food systems were presented on two occasions. One is at a roundtable co-organised by Focus, the Asia Pacific Network for Food Sovereignty and Freedom from Debt Coalition, *A Critical Look into ADB's Role in Addressing Food Security: Proposals for Increasing Investments on Small Farmers* in October. The roundtable discussion was organised as a parallel event to the Investment Forum organised by the Asian Development Bank, International Food and Agricultural Development, and Food and Agriculture Organisation. The roundtable brought together various groups working on food, agriculture and land rights issues from the region. The second occasion was at a workshop organised by the Third World Studies Centre on "*Southeast Asian Perspectives on Food Sovereignty*", in celebration of the World Food Day in October. Focus presented the findings of the overseas aid and agrarian reform working paper series, with emphasis on the implications on and links with food sovereignty. The workshop brought together food rights activists, academics, NGOs, government, and grassroots organisations from the country.

India

Focus participated in the national conference on *Ensuring Food Security in a Changing Climate*, organised in April by Gene Campaign and ActionAid, to generate greater awareness about this issue. Focus helped develop recommendations for action for a sustained advocacy program asking for policy changes to ensure food security in a changing climate.

Focus participated as resource person at the Asia level Regional Conference on Agroecology - "*The Asian Agroecology Encounter*" in Colombo, Sri Lanka, organised by La Via Campesina and MONLAR in May. The encounter was aimed at strengthening solidarity and farmer-to-farmer exchange among the agroecology movements in LVC in Asia, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of different sustainable farming methods and building a campaign for a debt free and poison free agroecology movement in the region with the support and guidance of the La Via Campesina. At the encounter Focus staff made a presentation on the '*Implication of financial capital in agriculture and effects on peasant's agriculture in Asia*', and also organised a workshop on the policy framework for

agro-ecology and drafted a policy framework which was discussed and finally adopted at the conference.

Focus India also participated at the 4th National Convention of the Right to Food Campaign, held in August at Rourkela in Orissa. The Convention discussed issues related to hunger, food security and its determinants, control over resources such as land, forests and water, the proposed National Food Security Act of the Government, food and livelihood schemes of the government and right to food in areas of conflict and displacement.

Thailand

Focus staff gave a presentation on *Global Threats to Food Security and Rural Livelihoods* in January to the steering group and all projects holders, which comprises NGOs and community leaders, under the Food Resource Base Program of the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, an autonomous agency funded by public “sin taxes”. The group was meeting to assess their work in the past 3 years, mainly involving the promotion of ecological, bio-diverse agriculture and sustainable and healthy food consumption, to brainstorm on the direction of their work in the next phase of the program. Focus was later, in April and May, invited by the Thai Health Promotion Foundation to be part of the independent Programme Review Panel to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the programme and give recommendations for the next phase of operation. A significant outcome of the review was the reaffirmation of the concept of “food resource base security” as the programme theme because it highlights the link between local natural resources conservation and community food security and well-being. This has worked well in mobilising a broader range of people against mangroves destruction to make way for a yachts marina in the tourist town of Phuket.

Regional and International

From February-April, Focus collaborated with an independent research team on a field study in the **Lao PDR** on the impacts of market driven policy changes on the livelihoods and food security of subsistence farming communities. The team conducted focus group discussions in 14 villages in south, central and northern Lao PDR. In each village, separate focus group discussions were held with women and men farmers, and semi-structured interviews were conducted with the village leadership. The research was carried out under the umbrella of the national agricultural extension programme and financed by the Swiss Development Cooperation. The English language report of the

study titled *Farmers' Voices* has been released (www.LaoFAB.org) and a Lao translation is in progress.

Focus staff and the research team leader have prepared an Occasional Paper for publication by Focus titled *A Tale of Two Economies*, which was published in February 2011.

In August, in collaboration with four other organisations, Focus co-organised a workshop on climate change in the Mekong region. Titled *Food, Livelihoods and Climate Change in the Mekong Region*, the workshop brought together 52 representatives of local networks and civil society organisations from Myanmar, the Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and China. The workshop was a first attempt by Focus to encourage a collective, regional platform for discussion about the particular vulnerability of the Mekong region's peoples and environments to both, climate change and so-called solutions to climate change. The Mekong region is one of the fastest growing regions in the world. It is also rich in biodiversity, watersheds, culture and natural resources, and particularly vulnerable to climate change. A significant proportion of the region's population is dependent on subsistence agriculture and artisanal fisheries for food and livelihood security, which are already being negatively affected by economic and environmental changes resulting from a resource extractive development model aimed at achieving rapid, high economic growth. A resource document that summarises the main issues discussed in the workshop has been prepared, which will be published by Focus.

DECOMMODIFICATION AND AGRARIAN REFORM

Philippines

Focus Philippines continued to monitor the implementation of Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER) Bill through research, networking and campaigning, conducting workshops, focusing on the engagements in the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) process, the role of overseas aid in the agrarian reform process, and the freedom of information provision. Focus also documented land grabbing and agri-investments, including agrofuels, in the Philippines and the involvement of IFIs.

Focus continued to be active in the Sulong CARPER!, a broad coalition of agrarian reform advocates monitoring the new law. Focus conducted two workshops on overseas aid and agrarian reform; the first with national groups on March 2-3 and the second in Mindanao on June 11. The workshops presented the working papers on *Overseas Aid and Agrarian*

Reform, a joint research initiative and publication of the Belgian Alliance of North-South Movements (11.11.11) and Focus on the Global South-Philippines. Activist researchers from various non-governmental research institutions have come together to carry out this collective undertaking. It aims to provide a one-stop resource to activists engaged in local and national campaigns for progressive land policy reforms. The research covers analysis of the policies of the following institutions and themes: (1) World Bank, (2) European Union; (3) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); (4) Belgian Development Aid; (6) Canadian International Development Assistance (CIDA), (7) Japanese aid, (8) Asian Development Bank (ADB), (9) a Mindanao-focused study covering various aid agencies, and (9) an overview analytical paper that covers the remainder of aid agencies (FAO, UNDP, AusAid, GTZ, USAID) and links the various findings to the broader issue of agrarian transformation and development in the Philippine countryside. The research is co-ordinated, and the working paper series edited, by Jun Borras, Jennifer Franco, Mary Ann Manahan, and Eduardo C. Tadem.

Focus actively supported the campaign of farmworkers in Hacienda Luisita and pushed to redistribute more than 4,000 hectares of landholdings. Focus provided resources (substantive/writing and funds), media, and networking support to the campaign.

India

As a member of the Citizen's Initiative for Peace, Focus organised a demonstration against POSCO's (South Korean Company) mining efforts in India and police repression on tribals resisting the mining plan, on 25 May in Mumbai. The POSCO mining concession expropriates a very large area of indigenous (tribal community) land and there have been numerous reports of violent actions against local communities, especially those who are protesting against the project.

Focus participated at the demonstration in Azad Maidan in Mumbai on 20 July against the Special Economic Zone proposed at Gorai in Mumbai and Raigarh in Navi Mumbai.

Narmada has been a witness to the 25 years long struggle by the local communities- adivasies, farmers, labourers, fish-workers and potters have building of Sardar Sarovar dam, and other large and small dams and canals which are destroying prime agricultural land, the rich horticulture and hilly as well as densely populated habitats. In October, the Narmada Bachao Andolan observed its 25th Centenary in Dhargaon (Maharashtra) and Badwani (Madhya Pradesh). Focus team participated at both these places. Focus had the opportunity to meet with representatives of different struggles and movements who have

converged here on this occasion and we carried stories of some of them in the November issue of Focus on India newsletter.

Cambodia and Thailand

In Cambodia, Focus continued the training of and support for the second generation of an action research team. The teams conducted their field work, analysed the information gathered and returned to their respective field areas for a new round of field work. Focus staff also made several visits to areas occupied by economic land concessions to gather information for a country situational paper that will be prepared by the end of 2011. Focus also joined in a longer term campaign to draw international attention to land grabbing in three provinces by sugar producing companies that are exporting sugar to Europe and the USA.

In Thailand, Focus staff participated in the strategy planning meeting during the annual assembly of the Thailand Land Reform Network that was held in Nakhon Pathom on 31 March. At the meeting Focus staff made a presentation on the global scenario and the multiple crises. Furthermore, on 11 – 12 May, Focus staff also in the annual strategy planning meeting of the Northern Peasant Federation's land reform network that was held in Chiang Mai. At the meeting, Focus staff made presentations on the communities' rights to land in the Lao PDR and Cambodia, and on LRAN and the GCAR.

Also in Thailand, Focus staff participated in an international conference titled *Revisiting Agrarian Transformation in Southeast Asia*, that was held in Chiang Mai on 13-15 May. The Conference was jointly organised by the Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development in the Faculty of Social Sciences of Chiang Mai University, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and University of Montreal in Canada. Focus staff made presentations on two panels: *Land Titling, Land Allocation and Land Reform* and *Boom Crops*. Focus also assisted La Via Campesina to organise a workshop on Agrarian Reform at this conference.

Regional and International

Focus continued to be actively part of the ***Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform (GCAR)***. From March to May, GCAR-Asia met in Kuala Lumpur and Chiang Mai, and global GCAR in Bolivia, in separate meetings, to firm up the plans of the campaign for 2010-2011. In April, GCAR organised a workshop in Cochabamba, Bolivia on land grabbing/agrarian reform and climate change inside the Peoples' Climate Summit organised by President Evo Morales of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

From March-April, Focus worked with the *Land Research Action Network (LRAN)*, La Via Campesina (LVC), FIAN International and GRAIN to prepare a strong statement against the World Bank's (WB) guidelines for responsible agricultural investments (RAI), which will facilitate large scale land acquisitions. The statement was released in April, in time for the WB Spring meetings in Washington, D.C. The statement gathered more than 50 organisations as signatories from around the world and was faxed to key governments that are the target of the WB's large scale land acquisition pilot projects. The statement is available on the Focus and LRAN websites.

Between January and April, LRAN provided information and analyses on land tenure and land titling to the research team of Professor Olivier de Schutter, the UN's Special Rapporteur for the Right to Food. Focus also contributed in this process and sent information about actual tenure issues in India, Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia.

Another key aspect of LRAN's work is the follow up on the *International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD)*. It is involved in the FAO's consultation process to come up with a set of "*Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Land and Natural Resources Tenure*" (VGs). An Asia civil society meeting was held on 24-26 March in *Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*. The meeting aimed to identify and make an inventory of key problems related to land and natural resource tenure in Asia; to propose solutions to these problems; to identify what people expect from these guidelines and from FAO; and to prepare the Asian input for CSO guidelines which will be elaborated upon in the second part of 2010 as an input to the inter-governmental process within FAO.

To maximize the presence of many groups from across Asia working on land and natural resource issues at the CSO consultation in Kuala Lumpur on 24-26 March, a *Sharing and Strategy Meeting on Land and Resource Grabs* was organised on 27 March, also in Kuala Lumpur. The Sharing and Strategy meeting brought together representatives of social movements and organisations from different constituencies and countries, to share their experiences and knowledge of land grabbing, and to explore the potential and possibilities of developing common strategies to put an end to land grabs. A key output of the meeting is to produce a good documentation of the various experiences and knowledge on land grabbing, which can be used not only by the participants but also other social movements and organisations working on land and natural resources.

A Focus staff person is a member of the international steering committee and one of the facilitators for the Asia process to prepare the CSO-social movements inputs into the official VGs, and another Focus staff person put together the final report of the consultation

meeting in Kuala Lumpur. Focus also organised additional consultations with local movements and networks on the content of the VGs in Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Philippines. The Focus staff person on the steering committee was also nominated to the international drafting team. Between September and December, this staff person worked with the other two members of the drafting team to compile the results of consultations with CSOs and social movements in all the regions, into a composite document for a final round of consultations and review.

In October, Focus staff participated in the meetings of the Committee for World Food Security (CFS) in Rome. The CFS accepts CSOs and constituency organisations/networks (for example fisherfolk, farmers, pastoralists, rural women, etc.) as full participants in its proceedings. The CFS meetings in October 2010 concentrated on land and resource tenure, regulations of agricultural investments and commodity markets, and nutrition. The WB and other authors of the RAI attempted to convince the CFS to endorse the RAI as the over-arching framework for agricultural investment and land-resource tenure, which LRAN and GCAR oppose. Focus worked with FIAN to prepare two documents in English, Spanish and French on the problems with RAI and a comparison between the RAI and VGs, which were released in Rome during the CFS (these are available on the Focus and LRAN websites).

Focus staff served as resource persons and facilitators to the CSO-social movements participants, assisted in the preparation of statements to the CFS by social movements, and co-organised actions and meetings to ensure a desirable outcome regarding land and natural resource tenure. Along with FIAN and LVC, Focus also co-organised a workshop on the role of financial corporations and investors in acquiring lands and enabling landgrabbing. The aim of the workshop was to show the new actors who have entered the landgrabbing arena and explore strategies to stop them. Focus also assisted in organising a side event with the Land Development Politics Initiative (LDPI) on the trends and drivers of global landgrabbing, which was very well attended and catalysed a great deal of discussion on large scale agricultural investments. These documents and other statements that Focus helped to draft, were extremely effective. In the end, the CFS did not endorse the RAI, gave the go-ahead to the VGs process, and instructed that an open and inclusive consultation process on the RAI be started.

LVC held its Southeast Asia regional meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in December. Focus staff assisted LVC to organise a regional meeting on land grabbing as part of the programme of the regional meeting. The land grabbing meeting was an open event and attended by over 100 people. Focus staff made presentations on the regional and global

land grabbing situation, and worked with the LVC team to prepare a summary paper of the key issues that emerged during the day.

Focus coordinated contributions by LRAN to a special issue of the journal *Development* (Issue 54.1) on global landgrabbing. The writing and editing was completed in November for publication in March 2011. LRAN contributed a total of six articles to this edition, three of which were authored by Focus staff.

ESSENTIAL GOODS AND SERVICES

Philippines

Apart from the DRTS, Focus continued its advocacy/engagements with public water managers, community water service providers, and trade unions. Focus staff presented/participated at the workshop-training organised by the Alliance of Government Workers in the Water Sector (AGWWAS) on integrated water resources management in June and was invited as a resource/guest speaker at its national convention/assembly in October. A workshop-writeshop on performance benchmarking of water districts was organised in late November. This was part of the initiative of Focus, Visayas State University, and AGWWAS in promoting improved public and quality water service provision in the country through building the technical capacity of labour in understanding data processing and analysis of performance and delivery of water to communities, with a clear political objective that such knowledge can shield them from threats of privatisation.

Focus also started to explore engagements with local governments in an effort to push for policy and practical reforms in improving public water service provision and resource management. A forum on localising human right to water was organised in Iligan City, which brought together various interest groups and actors from government, civil society, public water utilities and community-based organisations.

Another important initiative that Focus engaged in is the Rizal-Laguna Lake Trisectoral Initiative. Focus is mainstreaming the 'commons' as a framework, concept and handle in looking at the Laguna de Bay as a resource. Laguna de Bay as a critical water resource is affected by development pressures like population growth, rapid industrialisation, conflicting resources allocation, upland mining, forest denudation, land conversion, logging, and climate change. These natural and man-made threats affect the situation of communities around the lake; the manifestation of which is the steady decline of

freshwater fish supply. Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng caused flashfloods, destroyed crops, and drowned a lot of people in the surrounding communities of the lake. Serving as the natural detention reservoir for discharges from 21 surrounding tributary streams, the intense rains brought by the two typhoons caused denuded upland areas to rapidly saturate and swell, resulting in surface run-off, soil erosion and landslides. Widespread deforestation is generally caused by logging, mining and land conversion activities. In Rizal, specifically San Mateo, Antipolo and Montalban, conversion of the highlands into residential sites or subdivisions is prevalent. So when heavy rains poured, it ultimately caused surface run-off and soil erosion which carried the water, mud and debris directly to the river system connecting the different tributary streams, all leading to Laguna de Bay.

This illustrates the upstream and downstream environment and the interconnectedness of such a fragile ecosystem. With the aim of developing an integrated framework for rehabilitating the upland, lowland, and coastal ecosystems and to assert their right to live in a much safer environment, the farmers, fishers, rural women, and the urban poor around the lake have initiated a tri-sectoral rehabilitation initiative that would link together the various efforts undertaken in the upland, along the lake and within the informal settlements. Such a grassroots-based initiative aims to address the decade-long neglect and fragmented approach of government in dealing with the problems of the Laguna de Bay. For 2010, Focus' role in the trisectoral initiative has been to provide support to fill in the research needs and resource-linking/resources of the initiative. Focus co-organised two consultations with the groups, one in October and the second, a field visit/consultation in November.

Since 2008, Focus has been part of the Steering Committee of the Municipal Services Project (MSP), a five year inter-sectoral and inter-regional study that systematically explores non-commercialised alternatives to service provision, focusing on three systems: health, water/sanitation and electricity. Focus coordinates the Asia portion of the project.

In March, Focus participated in the MSP Steering Committee Meeting in New Delhi, where the main themes in the mapping exercise, the process for finalising the book project, and the follow-up projects after publication were discussed. Focus organised a Public Forum on Essential Services after the MSP Steering Committee Meeting, also in New Delhi. It discussed broad questions on the public provision of essential services in water, sanitation, health and electricity, and explored broad challenges ahead. Aside from MSP researchers and steering committee members, the public forum was attended by leading public utility activists, experts, campaigners, and trade unionists in India.

Most of the year was spent finishing up the three Asia chapters of the MSP mapping and book project, editing, and finalising the outputs. The Asia introductory chapter has also been completed. The book (of which the Asia section is a part) is now under peer review and is expected to be published by 2nd half of 2011.

India

In March 2010, the MSP Steering Committee Meeting was held in India. This opportunity was also used to introduce the concept of the MSP to a select group of researchers and activists in India. The Municipal Services Project and Focus on the Global South thus co-organised a one-day workshop to share experiences on building alternatives to the privatisation of basic services. The workshop was held on March 31st 2010 at USI in New Delhi. The different panels presented the findings of the MSP and also the Indian experience in the three sectors of Water, Health & Electricity. The meeting was a vital exercise for both the Indian participants and the MSP members, in terms of expanding the concept of MSP to people outside the existing research team, strengthening the research in India.

On 16th February, Focus India was invited by the Panni Hakk Committee (Water Rights Committee) of Mumbai to present on international scenario of water struggles at the State Level Convention on Water Rights at Mumbai Marathi Patrakar in Mumbai.

Regional and International

In its international work on water rights, Focus co-organised a global strategy seminar of the *Reclaiming Public Water (RPW)* network in February in *Brussels, Belgium*. The RPW is an open, horizontal and multi-sectoral network that connects a growing number of social movements, trade unionists, researchers, community activists, and managers of public water operators, and community water systems from around the world. The network promotes progressive public and community water management and believes in the power of democratic alternatives to water privatisation and commodification.

Close to 80 campaigners came together to discuss global water challenges and people-centred solutions. The event was the first global RPW assembly since the network was launched in October 2005 and has grown in numbers since then. The seminar was a space for sharing knowledge and experiences about improving public water provision through democratisation, partnerships between utilities and other actors (public-public partnerships) and other progressive solutions. Equally important, the seminar also focused on strategising on the next steps in research, campaigning, and other joint work. An integral theme during the seminar was the impacts of climate change in exacerbating an

already accelerating water crisis. The three-day workshop produced collective workplans and priorities of the network.

Focus is part of the newly formed facilitation group/network support group that will oversee the progress of the network. Focus is also anchoring the work in Asia -- Southeast, East and South Asia. For 2010-2011, the priorities will be the regional process on building a platform on alternatives/Public-public partnerships and community water systems (linked to the MSP), and work on the ADB's water policy, and financing and investments.

Focus staff also participated at the 10 Años de la Guerra del Agua of the III Feria del Agua on April 15 to 19 at **Cochabamba, Bolivia**, in celebration of the 10 Years of the Water Wars. Focus staff gave a speech at the opening plenary of the Feria and co-sponsored a workshop on water and climate change. Focus also co-sponsored two workshops on water and climate change at the Peoples' Climate Summit on April 21-22.

Sustainable Cities Project (India only)

Focus India organised various preparatory meetings since February 2010 with Youth for Unity & Voluntary Action (YUVA) and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and other eminent architects, planners for organising a national-level housing conference. As a follow up to the Mumbai-level conference on housing alternatives held last year in March 2009, it was decided to organise a national-level housing conference that will look not only at housing, but also at the issue of supporting infrastructure, including aspects of housing finance, land & planning, legal frameworks. The conference will also hold a detailed discussion on the role of various government bodies. It was proposed to have the national-level conference in October 2010 but due to some unavoidable reasons the conference could not take place in 2010.

Focus continued its association with trade unions in Mumbai on the housing issue, especially with the Girni Kamgar Sangharsh Samiti (GKSS) (Mill Workers Action Committee). Specifically, we were involved in documentation and monitoring of the mill workers' housing scheme in Mumbai. It is apparent that while the State government has promised to hand over the 10,000 houses that are being constructed on various mill lands in the city in November this year, no construction has even begun on the other mill lands. This is due to the fact that certain loop-holes in the regulation do not need the mill owners to handover the land for housing until they carry out 30% development on their land. A recent amendment, however, attempts to restrain the mills from deliberately delaying the

handing over of land for housing. Focus helped edit the response of GKSS to this amendment.

Focus also provided supporting role to GKSS in drafting press releases, drafting reports of the meetings, informing network partners about the activities. In February, Focus supported the GKSS and Bharat Mata theatre's program of felicitating 5 new successful Marathi movies.

Focus India is also engaged in first level national consultation on urban issues, as a step towards establishing an Urban Forum in India that sees the coming together of groups, networks, civil society organisations and movements to share their experiences, which will strengthen such movements in the country.

Focus India also started a field research survey in Konkan region of Maharashtra in November 2010 entitled '*Growth of Small Towns – Impact on Migration. A study in Konkan*'. The aim of this study is to investigate reasons for the growth of small towns. It will be argued that the reasons for this are the evolving livelihood, migration and land-use patterns. Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg, in the Konkan region of Maharashtra are the proposed areas of study.

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PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

India-Pakistan peace process

India and Pakistan relations are a key factor in shaping regional development. In 2004 both countries realised the futility of war mongering and resumed dialogue and the peace process. The process started yielding results and four rounds of composite dialogue had been completed and the fifth was in progress when militants attacked the city of Mumbai on 26 November 2008.

The Government of India immediately paused the peace process and even after almost two years the process has not yet resumed. Non-resumption of dialogue is affecting the people who have relatives on both the side of borders, poor fishermen from both countries who crossed into the water territory of the other country, bilateral relations, trade and regional co-operation amongst other things. The sad reality is that policies between the two countries are generally decided by the defence establishment including intelligence.

Some efforts were taken to break the deadlock but a major initiative was taken by Focus along with our key allies like the Centre for Policy Analysis (CPA), SANGAT, COVA, and ANHAD in organising the *India-Pakistan Conference: A Roadmap towards Peace*. The entire Focus team spent the last quarter of 2009 in preparation for this highly significant and political conference on India-Pakistan.

The conference was held from the 10 -12 January 2010 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. It was attended by over 300 participants from both India and Pakistan. Some of the key people from India were Kuldip Nayar, Mani Shanker Aiyar, Mehbooba Mufti, Yasin Malik, Sajjad Lone and from Pakistan we were happy to host Aitzaz Ahsan, Asma Jehangir, Bizenjo Hasil Khan, Choudhury Manzoor, Iqbal Haider, amongst others.

One of the major outcomes of this effort was the conference declaration which demanded a resumption of uninterrupted and uninteruptible talks between the two countries. The conference was significant because it was the first major initiative after 26/11 attacks on Mumbai in 2008. It also led to a formation of sub-groups which took up some of the key cross-border issues raised during the conference, such as economic cooperation, prisoners, water treaty, etc.

Focus took up the issue of fisherfolk who have been caught on both sides of the nautical border and now languishing in Indian and Pakistani prisons.

Focus was part of the Media Conference on India-Pakistan which was held on the 10 April in Patiala, Punjab. The objective of this initiative was to sensitise the media and bring together the journalists from either side of the border on a common platform.

A Roundtable on the issue of fishing and fisherfolk on the India-Pakistan nautical border was held on the 19 April in New Delhi. This important initiative by Focus was a follow-up of the India-Pakistan conference. The roundtable was organised along with National Fishworkers Forum, Peace Mumbai, Boat Owners Association (India) and Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, and PILER. It was attended by Justice Rajinder Sachar, Iqbal Haider, Kuldip Nayar, Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, Karamat Ali, and Zulfiqar Gardezi from the Pakistan High Commission. The major discussion revolved around the arrests and release of the innocent fisherfolk, consular access etc. The important outcome and follow-up of the meeting is to file a petition in the Apex Courts of both India and Pakistan asking for release of at least those fisherfolk who have completed their sentence. There are 582 Indian fishermen in Pakistani prisons and out of that 460 have completed their sentences. There are around 140 Pakistani fishermen in Indian prisons and about 45 have completed their sentences.

Meetings on *India-Pakistan Relations – A Way Forward* were also organised in Mumbai and Pune on the 3 and 4 July and were addressed by Mr Iqbal Haider (former Law Minister of Pakistan). Both meetings were well attended and widely covered.

After months of deliberations, lobbying with the Governments, filing of petitions in the respective Supreme Courts, we saw the release of long-term arrested fisherfolk and other civilian prisoners (more than 500 Indian fishermen from Pakistan and around 200 Pakistani prisoners including fishermen from India) from both the sides in September.

Focus was part of a delegation to meet with the Congress President and Chairperson of United Progressive Alliance, Sonia Gandhi, and the Home Minister P. Chidambaram in September to discuss the issue of prisoners and the Pakistan flood situation and ways that India could make its contributions.

Kashmir

Kashmir Valley has been in turmoil since February 2010 and more so from June. Around 115 young people, whose main demand was independence, have been killed in the attacks by the security forces.

Focus along with Peace Mumbai took the initiative to hold a discussion on the prevailing situation of the valley and invited Sajad Lone, Chairperson, Peoples' Conference, and Bashir Manzer, Editor, Kashmir Images, to be resource persons. The discussion was held in the Press Club, Mumbai, on 3rd of September. The meeting passed a resolution signed by the individuals present in the meeting describing a set of demands, such as the repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), and stressed upon the need for dialogue.

A Kashmir Solidarity Group was formed after the meeting which meets regularly. The group came out with a leaflet on *Understanding Kashmir*, which is being widely distributed in the city during various fora, and is organising regular screenings of films on Kashmir in various colleges of Mumbai along with a discussion on the subject.

Focus is also working on the Kashmir issue at the national level. In October, together with the group we organised a candle light vigil at Azad Maidan, in tandem with other similar groups doing the same vigil across various towns in India. We were part of 2 delegations which visited the valley with the idea of meeting common people, civil society groups and political leaders and parties. One of them was initiated by an independent group working on the issue of human rights violation in Kashmir. The second in December was a parliamentary and civil society delegation co-organised by Focus and Centre for Policy Analysis (CPA) again to highlight the issue and demand for unconditional dialogue.

Democracy in India

As part of our effort to build the democracy dimension of this programme, Focus participated in and organised several activities.

A *Vigil on Police Reforms* was organised by Citizen's Initiative for Peace (CIP) on the eve of Republic Day in January, a network of organisations working on local Mumbai issues and became very active after the 26/11 attack on Mumbai. Focus is a member of the CIP and together with other organisations formed a sub-group which consistently works on the issue of police reforms. A big public meeting on the issue was held on the 25th November

at St. Xavier's College. The key speakers were Kiran Bedi (retired IPS officer) and Maja Daruwala and Mihir Desai (well-known lawyers).

On 30 April, Peace Mumbai organised the Nirmala Deshpande Memorial Lecture in Mumbai on the topic of the Nuclear Liability Bill. On 25 June, CIP organised a meeting *Emergency Then and Police Repression Now* in which Kuldip Nayar, Ashok Dhavle and Pushpa Bhavle were key speakers. This event was held to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Emergency.

Discussion on Afghanistan

Focus, along with CPA, organised a closed-door discussion on the scenario in Afghanistan at the India International Centre. We discussed the situation in the region and what the Indian civil society can do. The decision was to hold a series of small meetings along with the Afghan civil society and try and understand the situation, our role, expectations, etc. As a result of these meetings, we decided to send an Asian parliamentary delegation to Afghanistan in 2011 and are actively working on finding the necessary resources for this mission.

The Freedom Flotilla for Gaza

Focus supported the first flotilla that sailed at the end of May from different European ports (Turkey, Greece, Ireland) and gathered around 600 passengers from more than 40 countries. A Focus staff member went to Greece at the end of March to mobilise in Europe and Asia and help organise the flotilla. The flotilla campaign was widely supported in Asia and, after the deadly attack on the flotilla, Focus and our partners organised solidarity events in the Philippines where thousands of people demonstrated in solidarity with the Flotilla and the people in Gaza.

Asia - Palestine

Focus on the Global South, Stop the Wall and Focus India partners, co-organised a conference '*Just Peace for Palestine*' in New Delhi in September 2010. It was the first Asian conference on Palestine solidarity. The conference gathered speakers from Palestine and Asia to present perspectives on the situation in Palestine, the boycott, disinvestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign in Asia, and the Flotilla campaign which had tremendous impact all over the world. The conference improved participants' awareness about the Israel-Palestine question in India and set the ground for the launch of solidarity campaign for Palestine in India and an Asian coordination on this topic.

In the Philippines, Focus organised a series of roundtable meetings with social movements in Manila and Mindanao in order to raise the awareness about the Palestine question. As a

result, the public '*Understanding Palestine Campaign 2011*' was launched in January 2011 with a series of activities, public meetings in schools and social places.

Philippines

Mindanao Conflict. Focus participated in the Mindanao Peace People's Summit in December 2010, in Mindanao. Strong links have been built and we are now preparing a campaign tour series in Philippines on Mindanao issues and self-determination with a Mindanao delegation from MPPM Network representing, Bangsamoro, Lumad and migrants communities as well as youths, women, farmers and fisherfolk. The tour series would include one public meeting, and a series of meetings with different networks and groups, such as students in universities and schools, farmers and fisherfolk unions, and women's associations. It would also include a meeting with legislators about the question of referendum in Bangsamoro area about RTS.

Freedom of information. Focus Philippines has been actively involved in the campaign to pass the Freedom of Information Act, as part of the Right to Know, Right Now!, a network of more than 100 organisations from various sectors. The network includes public-interest groups, environmental protection advocates, independent media groups, print and broadcast journalists, farmers organisations and support groups, women's organisations, private and public sector labour unions, migrant workers, businessmen, lawyers, academic institutions, and student and youth organisations that come together to make the urgent call for the passage of the Freedom of Information Act. Focus contributed to the campaign in terms of analysis, media work, networking, and resource mobilisation.

In the second half of the year, Focus co-organised with the Right to Know, Right Now! Network and the Office of Representative Wigberto Tanada III, a series of provincial consultations, media events, and fora in Davao City and Cagayan de Oro City, Mindanao. The series of activities on FOI was a means to start a new round of campaign directed towards the 15th Congress. The Mindanao consultations were meant to jumpstart the campaign at the local level, generate awareness on FOI, and expand the network to involve more stakeholders. Some of the highlights of the consultations were: (1) getting the support of Sarah Duterte, mayor of Davao City for FOI; (2) creation of a network of FOI advocates in Cagayan de Oro; (3) good media coverage in Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

Thailand

During the oppositional groups' mass mobilization against the Abhisit Vejjajiva's government in April-May 2010, Focus staff in the Bangkok office conducted interviews with the protesters, monitoring and analysing the situation, and co-organising and joining meetings with other national and regional civil society groups to find various ways to put pressure on the government to refrain from violent suppression. We were unfortunately unsuccessful in this regard.

No Bases Campaign

Focus on the Global South was deeply involved in the development of the Asian regional network of the campaign against foreign military bases and politically and materially supported a regional conference held in Japan on the US bases in Asia in March 2010. The conference was a success and reinforced the popular campaign in Okinawa. Focus also co-organised a fact-finding mission about the possible development of a military base in Jeju Island in South Korea in June 2010. A report of the fact-finding mission in South Korea is in the process of being released. The network is coordinating through bi-monthly conference calls and is now working on developing regional campaign materials. Preliminary contacts had been taken with possible partners in the Middle East about expanding the campaign there and about making a documentary film about foreign bases in Asia and Middle East.

Iraqi Civil Society Initiative

The First Iraqi Nonviolence Forum was held in Erbil in November 2009. This forum was organised by the LaOnf network (Iraqi Non Violence Group) with the participation of around 120 Iraqi members of the Network and other civil society groups. The main organisers of the conference were Al Mesalla Organisation for Human Resources Development in Erbil, with the cooperation of Nova (Spanish NGO), Un Ponte Per (Italian NGO), Peaceful Tomorrow (American NGO), and supported by the Municipality Council of Barcelona, the Spanish Catalonia Agency, and the local Authority of Toscana in Italy. Participants shared experiences and thoughts about peaceful conflict resolution and reconciliation in Iraq. Two main campaigns were proposed: Advocacy campaign about peaceful reconciliation in Iraq, and a Marathon for Peace to be held in Baghdad in November 2011.

Following the initial Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Conference in Velletri in 2009, a new website was established under the direction of Un Ponte Per. This website in both Arabic

and English should be a powerful tool to help strengthen links between Iraqi Civil Society and its counterparts. An international emergency campaign in support of the Iraqi Oil Trade Unions, who are facing increasing repression of their activities by the Iraqi government, will be launched at the end of 2010. A follow up meeting of the Velletri Conference is planned to be held Paris in December 2010.

One member of IDFN (Iraqi Democratic Future Network) and of Al Mesalla took part in the International Council of the World Social Forum to present a project for an Iraqi social forum to be held in Iraq in 2011. A Lot of us in the network, however, are still uncertain about the constituency of the Iraqi civil society after years of occupation and civil war. The fear is that such social forum may be a burden for the network, and, taking into consideration the still volatile situation on both security and political fronts, the Iraqi Social Forum seems premature to some of us.

Articles and Publications:

Lessons of the Gaza Freedom March by Walden Bello: <http://www.focusweb.org/node/1559>

Philippine democracy : alive, but is it well? by Walden Bello, INQUIRER.net, May, 2010

The Battle for Thailand, by Walden Bello, FOCUS ON TRADE : Number 151, May 2010.

Freedom Flotilla for Gaza by Thomas Sommer-Houdeville, May, 2010,
<http://www.focusweb.org/content/freedom-flotilla-gaza>

From Despair to Determination by Thomas Sommer-Houdeville, June 2010:
<http://www.focusweb.org/content/despair-determination>

Free Gaza Flotilla overcome obstacles by Thomas Sommer-Houdeville, June 2010
<http://www.focusweb.org/taxonomy/term/212>

Aftermath of the battle: Picking up the pieces by Jacques-chai Chomthongdi and Chanida Chanyapate, FOCUS ON TRADE : Number 151, May 2010.

CLIMATE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

INTERNATIONAL

In 2010, Focus committed to building on the achievements of 2009 in strengthening the climate justice movement, especially Climate Justice Now! (CJN!), as well as national and regional climate justice processes and coalitions.

In April, Focus participated in the *World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth* organised by Evo Morales' government in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Focus also co-organised a number of workshops on land, water, climate finance, and trade issues with other groups such as Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform, Land Research Action Network, Blue Planet Project, Council of Canadians, Our World is Not For Sale, etc. Focus was also invited to speak in the strategy table, however due to the Iceland volcano it was impossible for some Focus representatives to attend.

The Cochabamba Summit was a gathering of more than 30,000 individuals and representatives from social movements, progressive governments, and civil society. It was politically and strategically important in many ways, including:

- social movements taking the centre stage, speaking, debating and developing the Cochabamba Accord
- creating a common ground/space for governments to meet with social movements, with at least 10 countries with official delegations present there
- building a counter-pole to the Copenhagen Accord and as a mobilising tool for progressive governments (with Bolivia as the lead)
- generating contents of the Cochabamba Accord. Much of the analyses/positions of the social movements are reflected in the accord; this comes out from the 17 working table processes (the food sovereignty working table was the largest, with 500 participants).

In addition, it was a contested space: working table 18 (focusing on extractives) contested the legitimacy of the Summit and was a reflection of local struggles in Bolivia and how other local social movements are critical of Evo Morales' administration (especially of the REDD programs and other projects on natural resources).

In May, Focus participated in the Mexico Social Forum in Mexico City with the hope of starting to build relations with the Mexican civil society and movements in the lead-up to Cancun. However, due to splits within the Mexican civil society and weaknesses in CJN!, much of the momentum built in 2009 and in Copenhagen was lost in 2010. The result was that the outside mobilisations in Cancun were fragmented, and the inside positions and actions were weak. This, of course, was exacerbated by the logistics in Cancun and the fact that the negotiations themselves are becoming more untransparent and undemocratic.

Nonetheless, in Mexico Focus staff actively participated in the various mobilisations of La Via Campesina and the Mexican Forum as well as inside actions in the Moon Palace, venue of the UNFCCC talks. Focus spoke in several side events inside the official NGO venue as well as the Mexican Forum. In addition, Focus provided updates and analysis about the negotiations and climate justice' positions through live interviews from Mexican and US-based radio and print media on an almost daily basis during the second week of the negotiations. Dorothy Guerrero provided a five-minute post-Cancun analysis to the primetime live English TV edition of Al Jazeera News.

Focus was invited by the Institute of Strategic Studies (South Africa) to contribute the Asia section of an international research project on climate finance. The volume will be published in early 2011 and the main findings have been consolidated into a set of principles, which will be transmitted by the ISS to the African Union and individual countries of Africa.

Throughout the year, Focus continued to contribute to CJN!, in particular through the CJN! facilitation group and by developing and managing the website and email list.

REGIONAL

Our regional initiatives were done as co-coordinator of the Working Group on the Environment, which is one of the newest campaign networks within the Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacies (SAPA). In the preparation period for the ASEAN People's Forum (APF) in Hanoi, Vietnam, Focus held regional caucuses in Bangkok and advanced the call for the ASEAN to establish a fourth pillar on the environment under its new ASEAN Community structure. A one-day workshop on climate change and large-scale development projects for Vietnamese civil society groups was co-organised by Focus prior to the APF, which was attended by 70 participants from Vietnamese environment organisations. The climate change workshop and the one on natural resources were

among the most highly attended workshops during the APF with more than 120 participants.

Linked with our other alternative regionalism work, Focus was the main organiser of the climate plenary and policy dialogue discussion with EU officials during the 8th Asia-Europe People's Forum held in Brussels in October.

In August, Focus co-organised a workshop on climate change in the Mekong region entitled *Food, Livelihoods and Climate Change in the Mekong Region*, as a first attempt to encourage a collective, regional platform for discussion on the concept of climate justice and the commons. See *Reclaiming the Commons* report for more details.

CHINA

The China Programme organised three trainings/workshops to introduce climate justice in China. These workshops were attended by 200 participants from the NGOs, academe, student's organisations and city-wide networks in Beijing, Anhui and Yunnan provinces. We also explained climate justice concepts to around 20 NGO participants (climate campaigners, academe and media) during the Tianjin Intersessional negotiation of the UNFCCC. In Cancun, we joined the meeting between NGOs and the head of the official Chinese delegation as well as press conferences of the delegation to exchange views with Chinese negotiators.

Focus continues to provide UNFCCC and climate justice analysis to Chinese NGOs through our listserve "ClimateJusticeNews", which feature reports, statements and key articles on climate issues. These services include featuring pieces translated into Chinese. We are also running the Chinese page of the CJN! website.

INDIA

2010 started with the political fallout of the 2009 December Copenhagen accord and ended with the expected disaster of the 2010 Cancun agreements. The Government of India played a critical and active role in both these negative outcomes at the UNFCCC. The serious disconnect between the reality of climate change and demands of science on one hand and the response of the Indian Government on the other continued at the national level as well. Despite environmental movements upping the ante in 2010 with a number of vibrant struggles and campaigns ranging from big hydro, steel and port projects such as the Korean POSCO company, Vendanta mining, the Forest Rights Act implementation, Coastal zone regulation and the Jaitapur nuclear project, the Government's response was to continue with a business as usual attitude.

Focus continues to be an active member of the India Climate Justice Group (ICJG), which regularly meets in New Delhi to discuss climate policy issues. We also maintain the email group indiaclimatejustice@googlegroups.com. With the spectacular failure of the Copenhagen Climate Ministerial and the disastrous result of the Cancun agreements, the hype over a global climate treaty has considerably ebbed. The India Climate Justice Group had earlier articulated its stand on the Copenhagen ministerial and we held follow-up meetings to discuss the domestic implications of the Copenhagen Accord.

In 2010, ICJG decided to focus more on the domestic and regional implications of India's climate policy. During the April Peoples SAARC event on April 21 2010, we organised a workshop on '*Rivers, people and climate change in South Asia*'. The event was privileged to have interventions on Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India. The workshop statement that was presented at the PSAARC plenary event articulated that current water technologies adopted by governments in South Asia, such as big dams, diversions and hydro projects have not met their stated objectives but have instead created discord in situations where harmony existed between communities across borders. Further, these projects are witness to serious, long-term and widespread negative ecological and livelihood impacts. Climate change has brought further challenges such as glacial melting, flash floods, landslides, droughts, forest fires, intermittent rainfall, increased sea levels and risk of salinity ingress in absence of freshwater flows. Moreover, Governments have not demonstrated any basic values like equity, transparency, accountability, sustainability and participation of the people in intra and inter governmental processes. The statement concluded that the way out of the current crisis is to treat rivers as endowments, to be sustained for future generations rather than merely as short term resources to be simply harnessed and degraded in one or two generations. Some 30 people participated in the workshop and a press release from the event was sent to the media. A detailed background note was also prepared and circulated before the event.

The ICJG also held meetings to decide on an Indian civil society response to the Peoples Climate Summit at Cochabamba hosted by the Government of Bolivia. While three people from the network were confirmed to attend the event, only one person could make it due to the volcano eruption in Iceland and resultant travel cancellations. A people's memorandum was sent to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the stand the GOI should take on the Cochabamba summit.

Focus' Delhi office hosted an intern for two months (April-May) who was assigned to do a short note on impacts of climate change on Indian agriculture. The note documents

impacts on various regions in India and the adaptation and mitigation strategies adopted by the Government of India.

The report on Carbon offsets and Climate Finance in India was published in April 2010. The Occasional paper (No 7) documents the corporate driven climate solutions of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and United Nations. The report can be downloaded from: <http://www.focusweb.org/sites/www.focusweb.org/files/occ7.pdf>

Focus was invited to a high level meeting organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences at Mumbai in June 2010 on the issue of carbon budgets. The meeting was attended by the Indian Environment Minister and his negotiating team along with IPCC scientists, academicians and civil society groups. The meeting outcomes indicated that India might push for the carbon budget approach in the ensuing international climate talks. India organised side meetings at subsequent UNFCCC meetings, but its endorsement of the Cancun deals indicates that the carbon budget approach has been shelved.

In August 2010, the lower house of the Indian Parliament passed the civil liability for nuclear damage bill 2010. The passing of this bill operationalises the India-USA civilian nuclear agreement and will open the floodgates for nuclear reactor companies to establish new facilities in India. The Government of India is keen to push nuclear energy as a clean alternate energy option as part of its climate change related policies. While many statements and debates in the political circles focused largely on the question of liability of suppliers and operators in the case of nuclear accidents, questions on the very nature of nuclear energy were few and far between. The India Climate Justice Group held meetings to discuss the implications of nuclear energy and issued a statement that brought into focus the risks at many stages in the process including concerns about the feasibility of nuclear energy, imminent dangers from the construction of nuclear plants, the social and environmental impacts of uranium mining as well as issues of land acquisition and displacement.

From 26 October - 4 November, the China-India climate exchange was organised at the Focus office in New Delhi. Four Chinese climate policy analysts and NGO staff visited India along with two colleagues from the Focus China programme. The intensive programme included several meetings and sessions with policy makers, climate scientists, trade unions, film makers, academicians and activists in New Delhi on issues ranging from climate science, green jobs, energy, hydro dams, UNFCCC politics, urban transport and pollution and forestry issues. A field trip was organised to Uttar Pradesh on forestry issues and Uttarakhand on big hydro dams. Later on 15-18 November a team of 4 Indian climate

activists paid a return visit to Beijing as part of the exchange. (For details refer to Critical Discourse on Alternatives report.)

As part of its National Climate Action Plan, the Indian Government is pushing the Green India Mission which has been opposed by forest communities. Focus attended a meeting on November 25 at New Delhi to discuss the implications of the Green India Mission and how it is getting India ready for the REDD (Reducing Emissions from Forest Degradation and Deforestation).

Focus also hosted some meetings of the India Climate Justice collective in which experts on energy and coal (17 November) and carbon trading (12 December) spoke.

THAILAND

The Climate Justice work under the Thailand country programme in 2010 concentrated on

- strengthening grassroots movements including organising mass mobilisations and actions
- engaging in climate-related national policy formulation, especially the Government National Action Plan 2010-2019.
- monitoring of the Thai government in the UNFCCC negotiations, continuing from the previous year and as part of the Thai Working Group for Climate Justice (TCJ).

Report back from COP 15 and the preparation for the People's Summit

A delegation of 10 people from Thailand, facilitate by TCJ, participated in various activities in Copenhagen during COP15. A report back session was held in January for members of the civil society, which very much helped the group to plan the work for COP 16.

Moreover, several press events were organised where member of the delegation took part.

At the end of February, the preparation process for participation at the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Bolivia started.

Unfortunately, the participation was impossible due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland. However, a briefing was organised for the grassroots movement and the NGOs and the Peoples' Accord was translated and distributed as a tool to help raise the awareness of the concept of climate justice.

Development Cooperation Seminar

Focus and the Thai Working Group for Climate Justice (TCJ) together with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in

Thailand, on 29 March 2010, co-organised a national dialogue seminar under the title *“Beyond Copenhagen: Implementing Thailand’s Climate Change Strategy”*. This was the second part of a two seminars project that started in 2009 prior to COP 15. At this seminar the draft of the official 10 years National Master Plan was discussed publicly. This development was very important because, until then, this crucial plan had been drafted predominantly behind closed doors. As a result, not only civil society groups were able to access to the plan, but the Ministry also committed to organise public consultations on the Plan in four different regions of Thailand before submitting it for the cabinet approval.

Thailand’s “National Master Plan on Climate Change 2010-2019”

This has become a focus of national campaign and advocacy for Focus on the Global South and TCJ in 2010. Besides the problematic drafting process, the content of the (draft) plan itself has been criticised as leading toward unjust climate solutions. Since March 2010, TCJ has worked with its networks to formulate an initial critique. It is evident that the Plan does not challenge the country’s current unjust and unsustainable development regime which, apart from destroying communities and natural resources, is leading to increased greenhouse gases emissions due to the promotion of polluting industries.

Together with people’s networks, Focus on the Global South is advocating for a new drafting process of the National Master Plan on Climate Change with genuine public consultation. Two mass mobilisations and a series of dialogues were organised to achieve this goal. As a result, in the first week of 2011, the Prime Minister, who is also chairing the National Climate Change Committee, ordered the redraft of the Master Plan under new public consultation process.

National process work

There were five workshops in the provincial areas where Focus staff or other members of TCJ were involved and climate justice was discussed. These were part of the plan to strengthen grassroots movements on climate issues. There were also three national strategy meetings where members of TCJ and the representatives of community leaders and grassroots movements participated. These meetings aimed to outline the strategy from the early part of the year until COP 16 and beyond. As part of the outcomes, a common strategy in engaging in the official consultative processes and the production of the *‘People’s Action Plan’* were adopted. For COP 16, the direction was to put the emphasis on the mobilisation at the national level more than during the COP 15. The reason was due to the higher cost of participation in the case of COP 16 and the great demand of work within the country during the same period. Nonetheless, Focus on the

Global South successfully negotiated with the government agency concerned to have a member of TCJ on the official Thai delegation to COP 16. Coinciding with the COP 16, Focus on the Global South together with TCJ organised the *“Thai People’s Forum for Climate Justice 2010: Building Thai Voices - Beyond Cancún”* in Bangkok (November 29 - 30, 2010). Main activities included: (1) public discussion during the first days of the COP16; (2) exhibition of the impacts of climate change and climate policies on communities and the promotion of ‘Climate Justice’ concept to the general public, and (3) strategic media campaign. The main aims of this public event were to strengthen public understanding on ‘Climate Justice’ concept (the justice perspective in climate debates) and to legitimise public participation in decision-making process regarding national climate policies and measures. This major activity where around one thousand people from all regions of Thailand participated was part of the “1,000 Cancun” initiative. There was a good public response and media coverage. The main panel discussion was also shown on the national television network.

PHILIPPINES

The work in the Philippines for 2010 focused on two main interrelated objectives: (1) To Influence the Debate on Climate Policy in the Philippines, and (2) Build a grassroots and nationwide movement on climate justice.

Influencing the Climate Discourse and Debate

A report on the Clean Development Mechanism in the Philippines -- *Costly Dirty Money Making-Schemes: CDM in the Philippines* -- was formally launched on June 25, 2010. Herbert Docena, former Focus staff and author of the report presented the main findings to representatives from media and civil society groups and to a panel of reactors, which included Representative Walden Bello, Commissioner Lucille Sering of the Philippine Climate Change Commission, and Malou Mangahas of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

The report was used extensively in several other forums and discussion on climate and CDM in and outside Metro Manila. Focus, the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC) through their Davao office, the Freedom from Debt Coalition-Davao and Philippines Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) organised a CDM Caucus in Davao City, Mindanao on 22 November 2010. The Caucus became a platform for engaging in a debate with the President of Hedcor, Inc, a proponent of a hydropower-CDM project. The event was also covered in the local media.

Taking off from the main findings of the CDM report, Focus also developed a policy paper on climate finance and CDM in the Philippines which will be included in an international publication on monitoring governance of climate finance in Africa (with case studies from Asia).

Presentations based on the paper were also made to various groups including GAIA (on CDM and Waste on 17 September), PMCJ, and Davao-based groups working on climate (22 November).

Aside from CDM, Focus also participated in several consultations and forums organised by government and civil society organisations on the following topics/issues: Post Copenhagen discussions, Post Bonn Assessment, Forum on the National REDD+ strategy, and forum on climate financing.

As part of the national campaign platform Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), Focus co-organised the *'Make-shift for Climate Justice'* Peoples Conference on Climate Justice in parallel to the World's Peoples Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth's Rights in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The national assembly produced the initial outline for the Urgent Peoples' Demands, which will be the basis for the network's national level advocacy.

Focus also participated in PMCJ-organised series of actions and activities as part of a national, coordinated actions related to the COP-16 negotiations in Cancun, Mexico. Focus supported the participation of Virginia Pinlac of the grassroots women's group Kaisaka as PMCJ's representative to COP-16 events. Focus also provided direct support to the actions against dirty coal spearheaded by LRC, the fluvial parade and the Conference of the Peoples spearheaded by Tambuyog, SEAFISH and Kilusang Mangingisda, and the Climate Profiteers Tour - a series of pickets in front of the corporate headquarters of four Philippine corporations engaged in CDM projects and profiting from climate change.

We also provided inputs to an Open Letter to President Aquino on Climate Finance issued by PMCJ on December 5 2010.

Towards the end of the year, we put together the Focus Policy Review Special Edition on Climate (the issue came out in January 2011). The policy review examined the issue of climate change and the institutional and policy responses to address the problem at the national and global levels. The review also presented the current terms of the climate debate as reflected recently in the COP-16 meeting in Cancun Mexico.

Building climate justice movement in the Philippines

The Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (formerly called Climate Exchange or Climex) continues to be consolidated as the main platform for building a broad, multi-sectoral climate justice movement in the Philippines. The network has so far been able to formulate the basis of unity and the draft urgent peoples' demands. It has organised a number of caucuses on key climate issues like REDD, Climate Debt and Climate Finance, and Alternatives and Low Carbon Future and sectoral caucuses for fishers, workers, urban poor communities, indigenous peoples and forest communities.

PMCJ held a national assembly on 1 July, 2010 where there was an agreement to (1) consolidate an agenda for the new government of Noyonoy Aquino based on the urgent peoples demands; and (2) conduct a series of study sessions/forums on critical issues (REDD, CDM, climate finance, urban poor resettlement issues, water, energy, food security, and mining. Another assembly was held in 5 November 2010 to firm up plans related to the 12-days of Action for Cancun (COP-16).

PMCJ supported the Indigenous Peoples Gathering on Climate Change organised by the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC) in which around 50 leaders from indigenous communities in Mindanao participated. Focus made the presentation on the concept and principle of "historical responsibility".

Focus also supported the efforts of Pangisda, a national fisherfolk federation in organising a series of workshops on climate change and climate justice.

Focus together with PMCJ organised a Study Session on CDM on 10 August 2010. Herbert Docena (formerly of Focus and author of the report *Costly Dirty Money-Making Scheme: CDM in the Philippines*) was the main resource person. The study session facilitated the development of PMCJ's position on CDM and carbon offsets.

Several papers and presentations were also prepared throughout the year including presentations on *Climate Justice Movement* (for the workshop on Climate Change at the Kyoto Social Forum (21-22 March 2010); *CDM and Climate Finance* (for the media launch of the Focus Report: *Costly, Dirty, Money-Making Scheme: CDM in the Philippines* (25 June 2010) and for the Conference on Climate Finance: Seeking Justice and Reparations organised by the Freedom from Debt Coalition and Jubilee South-APMDD (19 June 2010); on *Historical Responsibility* (for the Indigenous Peoples Gathering on Climate Change organized by the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center in cooperation with the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) (7-9 July 2010, Samal Island, Mindanao); and reports and articles including "*Bringing the Climate Debate Down to Earth*", a report

on the Peoples Conference on Climate Justice published in Focus on the Philippines (FOP) and Focus on Trade (FOT) newsletters, April 2010; *Climate Finance: Case Study on CDM in the Philippines*: Part of the Monitoring Governance of Climate Finance in Africa research project spearheaded by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), September 2010; and Focus Policy Review Special Climate Edition, October-December 2010.

ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Annual Staff Retreat, 18-20 January

Balai Kalinaw, UP, Manila

It was the first staff retreat that was held outside Thailand where our regional office is based. Manila office hosted the retreat at the Balai Kalinaw, located inside the University of the Philippines (UP) campus, and it was attended by all 27 Focus staff members and 3 Manila office interns.

The Retreat started with the 2009 program reports by the 4 thematic programme teams, namely Deglobalisation, Reclaiming the Commons, Peace and Democracy, and Climate Justice and also the country teams, China, India, Philippines and Thailand. The reports focused on what was done and not done according to the work plan, new issues to be considered, existing and new partners, and budget management. This was followed by the discussion on the current global conjuncture which informed the prioritisation of programme activities to be carried out in 2010. In the morning of the last day, the financial reports and budget revision were presented and discussed. The Retreat was wrapped up with other organisational issues comprising of the discussion on the gender policy, role and function of the editorial team, the management team and Coordinator, staff requirements and review of the staff policy.

Fifteenth Anniversary of Focus, 20 January

Village Patio (Garden Venue), Manila

Taking advantage of the presence of all the Focus staff in Manila, Focus Philippines hosted a gathering of Focus friends, allies, partners and supporters on January 20 to celebrate Focus' 15th anniversary. During the event, the FoP 2009 Yearbook was launched and the new Focus logo was introduced.

Programme Staff meeting, 4-6 August

Tawana Hotel, Bangkok

All the 20 program staff attended the meeting to review work progress, country contexts, and the budget allocation and financial situation. The last session was occupied by discussion on staff issues, process for choosing a new Coordinator, website and

communications and fund raising. It was decided that a fund-raising team be constituted to plan fund-raising in a more systematic manner.

Board Meeting, 18-19 July

Political Science Alumni Association Meeting Room

The annual Board Meeting was held at the Political Science Alumni Association Meeting room, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. The meeting started with welcoming the new Board members for the year 2010-2013: Indra Lubis from La Via Campesina, Indonesia, and Niyada Kiatying-Angsulee, CUSRI Director, Chulalongkorn University. The agenda of the first day included the review and discussion of global trends and regional and national contexts led by Walden Bello, and the presentation and discussion of past work as presented in the Annual Report 2009 and the interim report for Jan-June 2010 and highlights of the 2010 work plan. The second day the discussion was on the 2009 Financial Report and half year report 2010, and 2010-2011 operational budget and the funding situation and fund raising issues.

The Board made several nominations of individuals who could be invited to fill the vacancies on the Board left by the members whose term had expired. Effort was made to include people from the different sectors of civil society and geographical regions and to improve the gender balance. The staff would discuss more on the nominees and would invite them for the next meeting which was scheduled for a weekend of July 2011.

BOARD MEMBERS 2010:

- Abdul Hameed Nayyar, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan (term ended)
- Alejandro Bendaña, Centro de Estudios Internacionales, Managua City, Nicaragua
- Boua Chanthou, Padek, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (term ended)
- Indra Lubis, La Via Campesina, Indonesia
- Jayati Ghosh, Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India (term ended)
- Niyada Kiatying-Angsulee, Director, Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

- Peter Rosset, Chiapas, Mexico
- Somchai Homlaor, Internet Law Consultants Limited, Bangkok, Thailand (term ended)
- Surichai Wun'Gaeo (Chair), Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Bangkok, Thailand
- Suwattana Thadaniti, Faculty of Architecture, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (term ended)
- Walden Bello, Focus on the Global South, Bangkok, Thailand
- Yoon Youngmo, Korea Labour & Society Institute (KLSI), Seoul, Korea (term ended)

STAFF 2010:

Aditi Bhaduri (from June-December)

Afsar Jafri

Alinaya Fabros (on leave from July)

Ashish More

Benny Kuruvilla

Carmina Flores Obanil

Chanida Bamford

Clarissa Militante (from May)

Dorothy Guerrero

Jacques-chai Chomthongdi

Jatin Desai

Jenina Joy Chavez

Jerik Cruz (from June)

Joseph Purugganan

Lou Torres

Lyn dela Cruz (from January)

Mary Ann Manahan

Mary Lou Malig (till March)

Mayuree Ruechakiattikul

Meena Mennon

Nicola Bullard

Nilesh More

Praphai Jundee

Rebeca Leonard (from June)

Raffy Simbol

Sarita Ramamoorthy (till December)

Shalmali Guttal

Sonila Shetty

Soontaree Nakaviroj

Sudhir Khalkho

Thomas Sommer-Houdeville

Varsha Rajan Berry

Walden Bello

Yu Yin

WORKING PARTNERS / INTERNS / VOLUNTEERS:**India**

Aasish Francis (from November)

Dattaram Iswalkar (Consultant)

Jesse Endahl (from June to August)

Kuimi Tampeimi Vashum (March to April)

Meena Karnik (Consultant for study on Widows of Vidharbha)

Shashank Kumar (from April to October)

Subia Ahmed (June)

Philippines

Chih-Yung Fang

Crystal Chow (from October)

Jonathan Mok (till April)

Thailand

Chung-Chi Chao (till September)

Szu-Ying Chen (from November)

CORE FUNDERS 2010:

11.11.11, Belgium

Christian Aid, UK

CORDAID, the Netherlands

Development and Peace, Canada

ICCO & Kerk and Actie, the Netherlands

Inter Pares, Canada (2010 grant carried forward to 2011)

Oxfam HK, Hong Kong

Oxfam NOVIB, the Netherlands

FUNDERS OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES IN 2010:

Action Aid Asia

Action Aid India

Bank Information Center

Chula Global Network

Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute

Drug System Monitoring and Development Program

EU-ASEAN Network

Grassroots International

Heinrich Böll Foundation

HIVOS, India

KEPA

OWINFS / Isvara Fund

Oxfam Hong Kong

Siemenpuu Foundation