

Focus on the Global South

# 2011 - Annual Report



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Focus on the Global South 2011 Annual Report

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FOCUS ON THE GLOBAL SOUTH is a non-profit policy analysis, research and campaigning organisation, working in national, regional and international coalitions and campaigns, and with social movements and grassroots organizations on key issues confronting the global south. Focus was founded in 1995 and is attached to the Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUSRI) in Bangkok, Thailand. It has country programmes in the Philippines and India.

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# Introduction

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Year 2011 was the final year of 2009 – 2011 program work plans. This report looks at the work of Focus on the Global South in the year just passed, but it also contextualizes this work as part of all efforts and initiatives during the three-year program cycle.

It is also worth noting that in the latter half of 2011, while Focus was working towards realizing its work plan and meeting the goals it had set, the organization was also undergoing a re-structuring process. By end of 2011, the re-structuring process resulted in a leaner organization which will now bear the task of implementing projects under a sharpened, more focused framework called “Whose New Asia?: Understanding the political, economic, social and ecological challenges of the New Asia; building resistances, alternatives and solidarity.” The re-structuring process was aimed not only at meeting challenges in organizational resources but more importantly at acquiring the ability to respond to the global economic crises and geopolitical developments.

In some ways, this report also serves as the conclusion of an important chapter in the organization's history. Since its establishment in 1995, Focus has provided cutting edge analysis of global trends while working with social movements to create real change at the ground. Recent years have shown significant changes in the international order, as economic crises jolted the “old” centres of capital in Europe and the US, while Asia—led by China and India—is being touted as the new engine of the global economic system, fulfilling the dual roles of producer and consumer. Much has already been written about the “winners” in this “New Asia” and there have also been critical assessments of the social and environmental impacts of resource-intensive economic growth. Much less, however, is understood about how these developments are seen and experienced “from below” in China, India and across the region.

More importantly, as the social and ecological costs of this development model rise, the question of how Asia's booming economies can shift from their present trajectory to a more equitable, ecological and democratic path has become all the more pressing. These questions are important not only for ensuring social development and democracy, but because the ecosystems and resources underpinning the livelihoods of the vast majority of peoples in Asia are being destroyed by “business-as-usual” economic growth.

These have been the contexts in which Focus worked to accomplish its 2011 plan, including the re-structuring process.

Below are the highlights of the work of each program.

## Deglobalisation

### Trade and Finance

The key achievements of the trade and finance work in 2011 include: strengthening peoples' resistance to unjust economic agreements and policies; forging of closer cooperation and coordination of campaign efforts between India and Southeast Asian campaigns; and influencing the debate on major issues, such as on the EU's investment policy, ASEAN countries' move towards greater integration and people's access to medicine.

The focus on peoples' resistance was highlighted as a major effort to address bilateral and regional free trade agreements that were being negotiated between EU and several Southeast Asian countries as well as with India. Focus played an integral role in the consolidation of campaign platforms, spearheading the resistance to these proposed trade deals, through national campaigns in Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and India. But it was also imperative to launch regional campaigns to amplify the national efforts. In India, several forums and roundtable discussions on the EU-India FTA were organized all year round in partnership with peoples' organizations; a regional conference was held in May to bring into the campaign other regional and international groups. Papers were produced and a media campaign became an important component of the activities—media releases/press statements and articles were produced to raise awareness among the public. The coordinated campaign at the regional and national levels across five countries in Southeast Asia also intensified as campaigners debated and held dialogues with policymakers, consolidated positions and issued petitions addressed to regional and their respective national governments, established deeper linkages with other campaigns, and consolidated strategies and action plans.

2011 was the last year in the program cycle 2009-2011, during which work was focused on and produced

impacts in the following areas: consolidation of peoples' platforms on trade (highlighting WTO and bilateral FTAs); democratization and influencing of trade policy and trade policy-making processes; push for comprehensive trade and development policy alternatives.

### Alternative Regionalisms

Another sub-program under Deglobalisation, Alternative Regionalisms worked towards integrating issues, connecting groups, and forming cross-cutting regional/sub-regional advocacies, at which it has been very successful especially in the first half of 2011. Focus engaged major networks it has worked with in the past and pushed that these networks address key regional issues. In SAPA, in particular, Focus played an important role in getting the network engage in more regional issues so that for the second year, the SAPA General Forum (GF) was held in South Asia (Dhaka, Bangladesh in February), and highlighted Peace, Security and Human Rights issues in Asia, through the discussion of the experiences and lessons from the different sub-regions. Focus also continued its key role in the organizing of the 2011 APF/ACSC in Jakarta, Indonesia, where it was behind seven workshops and two side events. Focus had two representatives in the APF/ACSC's Steering Committee. The Peoples SAARC process was also revived in India, on the initiative of Focus India. Focus is one of the core movers of the PSAARC process, and continues to be committed to developing its program and processes.

Focus also pushed further its campaign on freedom of information at the regional level by facilitating the inclusion of broad advocacies in ASEAN campaigning, linking regional issues with national priorities, and targeting meaningful participation in regional processes. To establish a credible campaign, work on these areas was emphasized: strong foundation for the campaign based on research and analysis; a functioning network representative of and which has the capacity to reach out to broad audiences supporting the campaign; and well-planned targets and courses of action.

### Critical Discourse on Alternatives

In 2011, the Development Roundtable Series (DRTS) wrapped up the integrative process with consolidated critique and analysis on all policies that emerged since 1986, when the democratic system in the Philippines had been restored; the DRTS Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) released its initial policy positions based on several years of deliberation and discussions in the annual DRTS pre-SONA event in July 2011. These initial policy positions were taken from the integrative papers which had been reviewed by the Editorial Board consisting of key representatives of each TWG and

Focus. In December, the policy positions were published as separate papers of the thematic working groups.

Deconstructing Discourse and Activist Retooling Programme (DDARP)

DDARP has served as Focus Philippines' vehicle to revisit old debates and provide these with new perspectives. There were two main activities in 2011, namely the seminar co-sponsored with the University of the Philippines Third World Studies Centre on the issue of "Social Movements in the South Africa: Mobilizations after Apartheid;" and the speaker's tour that featured Dr. Chandra Muzaffar, leading Malaysian social activist and scholar on Islam, democracy, civilizational dialogue, international politics, human rights and Malaysian society. The week-long speaker tour started with lecture series and roundtable discussions held in Manila and ended with a one-day forum and press conference in Davao City Mindanao.

### Reclaiming the Commons Program

The program sustained its work on agro-fuels, contract farming, agribusiness operations, corporate control over resources, public goods and services, land and natural resource expropriations, land and natural resource tenure, water governance, and urban poor and rural economies. Its main strength was the ability to establish and show links across various trends and models of use, distribution and governance of the commons, as well as their impacts at multiple levels.

Focus' ability to link issues and trends across multiple levels, sectors and locations has been commended by social movements, CSOs, networks and academics, who have expressed appreciation of Focus' ability to take on leadership roles when needed, and provide credible and grounded analyses, predictions and proposals for change. Focus staff have been in great demand as trainers, teachers and resource persons in 'teach-in' events, conferences, seminars, workshops, and university and training courses.

The program also produced key research studies on land grabbing, land and natural resource issues, alternatives to privatization of health, water, sanitation and electricity sectors, agrarian reform and agrarian crisis in the Mekong region, Thailand, Philippines and India; and the knowledge and analyses that emerged from these studies have been widely disseminated through written outputs (such as articles, papers and publications), campaign actions and materials, and presentations in conferences and workshops. These have been used by social movements, CSOs, coalitions, networks, academics, policy makers and the press/media in their own analysis, writing, planning, and strategizing.

## Peace and Democracy Program

Focus addressed key global issues, namely the continuing siege on Gaza and Israeli apartheid, as well as the conflicts in Kashmir and between India and Pakistan, and the peace process in Mindanao, Philippines. Focus strengthened its solidarity work, with one of its staff members participating in the second Freedom Flotilla (in May 2010, same staff member also participated in the first Freedom Flotilla). Focus organized 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. Focus India held the first roundtable on the issue of arrested fisher folk, in April 2010, involving various stakeholders. Focus set up a working group on Kashmir, based in Mumbai, and assisted the Centre for Policy and Analysis in organizing a 'goodwill' parliamentary mission to Kashmir, where a committee was set up as well to continue working on this process.

## Climate Justice Campaign

Over the past three years, Focus' work on climate justice has taken root at the national, regional and international levels through active involvement in movements building and through its own initiatives towards creating linkages through workshops, trainings and conferences, as well as the publication of papers and articles in various journals. In the Philippines, Focus was one of the founders of the Philippines Movement for Climate Justice (PMCI) and in Thailand Focus is a key member of the Thai Working Group

on Climate Justice (TCJ). In India, though climate justice coalitions have not been formalized, Focus has sustained engagement with and involvement in an informal national network of groups working together under climate justice framework. At the regional level, through its engagement of ASEAN, Focus was able to raise awareness on key issues such as REDD, clean development mechanism, climate change and climate justice. Focus leads the campaign for the creation of an ASEAN "environmental" pillar. Internationally, Focus was a founding member and a driving force in the Climate Justice Now! (CJN!) Network; linking local social movements and activists with the international processes, including the UNFCCC and CJN! was one of its major initiatives.

In addition to the work specifically related to climate change (adaptation, mitigation and financing) Focus engaged in debates on emerging issues such as "de-growth," "green growth," "just transition" and the Rights of Mother Earth, and had re-engaged with the "sustainability" debate as we approached the 20th anniversary of the Earth Summit. In terms of international climate justice movement building, Focus has contributed through articles, speaking at conferences and workshops, and by supporting, especially in the early stages, the development of the Climate Justice Now! Network. In addition, Focus helped link climate issues with campaigns in other areas such as trade, finance, agriculture and water. Focus has persistently challenged market-based mechanisms by contributing to the growing body of critical writing through research and analysis on CDM, climate finance and energy policy.





# Deglobalisation Programme

## TRADE AND FINANCE

Strengthening of peoples' resistance to unjust economic agreements and policies continued to be the main thrust of Focus' trade and finance work in 2011. With the WTO-Doha talks stalled, the emphasis of the trade work was bilateral and regional Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). In India, Thailand and the Philippines, a particular target of national and regional campaigning was the proposed agreements with the EU. Focus played an integral role in the consolidation of campaign platforms, spearheading the resistance to these proposed trade deals.

At the regional level, there was closer cooperation and coordination of campaign efforts between India and Southeast Asian campaigns. The roundtable discussion on FTAs organized in Delhi in February provided the opportunity for trade campaigners from India and Southeast Asia to re-examine past efforts to confront WTO and bilateral agreements in the wake of old and new challenges. The centrality of agriculture and agrarian questions, jobs and employment, and people's access to health was affirmed in the joint discussions even as the groups agreed to heighten political action in the continuing trade campaigns across the region.

As the EU-India negotiations progressed rapidly, the resistance to this deal also consolidated around the sensitive issue of people's access to medicines. The highly restrictive TRIPS-plus regime being pushed by the EU in the negotiations with India raised serious concerns on the negative effect of these proposals on the capacity of the Indian generic medicine industry to produce cheap life-saving drugs. Because of the strategic importance of Indian generic medicines to the rest of the region, the EU-India FTA negotiations also became a cause of concern among various trade networks in Southeast Asia. During the first half of 2011, Focus had also been active in initiatives and actions on the issue of International Property Rights (IPR) and access to medicines in Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia.

On 3 March 2011, Focus, in collaboration with the South East Asian networks, and FTA Watch (Thailand), organised a one day roundtable discussion in New Delhi on the theme Challenges of Free Trade Agreements in Asia. This roundtable brought together academics,

researchers and activists (including a member of parliament each from Philippines and Malaysia) to discuss employment, finance, agriculture and access to affordable medicines and health care. Several EU-ASEAN FTA Network members, including Focus representatives from India, Thailand and Philippines, also participated in a mobilization in front of the Indian Parliament against the EU-India FTA spearheaded by health and access to medicine advocates.

In collaboration with Intercultural Resources, Focus published an occasional paper on 'The Feminist Economics of Trade: Reflections from the Indian Manufacturing sector' in March 2011. By using case studies about the manufacturing sector in India, the paper provided an understanding of the theoretical framework proposed by feminist economists on the process of economic liberalisation.

On 28 -29 April, Focus participated in the two-day workshop on "Rethinking Intellectual Property and Development after 15 Years of TRIPS (WTO)" at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in New Delhi organized by the Centre for WTO Studies and the South Centre (an intergovernmental organization of developing countries based in Geneva).

On 30 April, Focus also participated in the one-day workshop on "The Revival of the WTO: The Role of India and the Developing Economies in the Current Doha Round" organised by Centre for Trade and Development (Centad), OWINFS and TWN in New Delhi.

On 6 May, Focus, in collaboration with Indonesian and Korean groups, organized an international seminar in Jakarta on the "Food Crisis: The Importance of System Change". Focus made a presentation on the dangers of G20 and ASEAN initiatives on corporate-driven economy. This seminar was widely covered by the Jakarta media.

## Southeast Asia Regional Trade Work

As the bilateral EU-Singapore and EU-Malaysia talks progressed, the coordinated campaign at the regional and national levels across five countries in Southeast Asia also intensified. Following the contours

of the regional plan consolidated towards the end of 2010, the EU-ASEAN FTA Network pursued several regional activities aimed at consolidating regional level positions on critical cross-cutting issues and enhancing coordination among the national campaigns.

### **Critique of EU Investment Policy**

In February, the network became a signatory to a letter on EU Investment Policy initiated by the Seattle to Brussels Network in Europe. The letter called for substantive reforms in EU investment policy in the area of investor obligations into investment agreements, in particular in areas of human rights, environmental protection, decent work and corporate accountability and more precise and restrictive language regarding investors' rights; it also pushed for the abolition of the one-sided and secretive investor-to-state dispute settlement mechanism and measures to ensure that government measures which are designed and applied to protect or enhance public policy objectives cannot be challenged as "indirect expropriation" of investments. It likewise called on the EU to include a substantive social and environmental dimension in its investment policy.

On 20-21 September 2011, 40 ASEAN campaigners and experts met in Manila to participate in a Regional Forum on Investment organised by The EU-ASEAN FTA Campaign Network. During the two-day Forum, participants shared knowledge and experiences, articulated common strategies and discussed alternatives to the current investment regime. The two-day activity also served as preparation of the members of the regional network for its participation in the global week of action on investments to be held in Brussels in November.

The network co-organized and sent a delegation of seven activists/campaigners from the region to the Global Week of Action on Investments held in the period 5-8 November in Brussels. The network gave a presentation on the state of investment policy regime in ASEAN, as well as facilitated panel discussions and made presentations in a forum organized in the EU parliament.

### **ASEAN Peoples Forum (APF)/ASEAN Civil Society Conference (ACSC)**

Involvement in the yearly APF/ACSC continued to be an important platform for regional consolidation and network building for the trade work. Two workshops were co-organized by the network together with network members from ASEAN and Europe during the ASEAN Peoples Forum, 3-5 May 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia. ASEAN Policy Debate: Will FTAs narrow the development gap in ASEAN? tackled the question of whether or not ASEAN FTAs actually benefited the people of ASEAN and contributed to the goal of addressing the development divide. The other

workshop, Strategy meeting on Peoples' Access to Medicines, became an opportunity to organize a small discussion on intellectual property rights and access to medicines.

### **Outputs of involvement in APF**

An Open Letter to ASEAN Leaders on threats to peoples' access to medicines and right to health was issued by the network during the APF, which called on leaders to resist political pressure from the European Union and the United States to trade away the safeguards enshrined in the TRIPS agreement or give into any other demands in current and future trade agreements. The demands contained in the letter as well as the recommendations from the strategy meeting were incorporated in the final APF statement submitted to ASEAN leaders during the official interface meeting. The APF/ACSC Statement also contained the proposals and demands put forward by the network during the ASEAN policy debate.

### **Country-Level Campaigns**

#### **India**

Focus also actively worked in trade issues at the national level. The Indian Forum against FTAs, of which Focus is a member, more actively resisted the conclusion of the India-EU FTA in the latter part of the year, when the negotiations progressed rapidly indicating that the agreement will probably be signed during the India-EU summit in February 2012. The Forum intensified its lobbying and advocacy with the members of political parties, members of parliament as well as members of the national campaign on right to food to oppose the India EU-FTA. We also worked with other partners to build analysis and strengthen resistance among social movements to the ASEAN-India and other free trade agreements.

Kerala is one Indian state that has been adversely affected by bilateral free trade agreements, particularly the India-Sri Lanka FTA that caused a sharp drop in pepper and coconut prices, resulting in the suicides of hundreds of pepper farmers in the state. In January, Focus organised a panel discussion on Resisting Free Trade Agreements at the 6th edition of the VIBGYOR International Documentary Film Festival in Thrissur, Kerala, and in collaboration with the Kerala Independent Fishworkers Federation (KSMTF), the South Indian Coordination Committee of Farmers Movements (SICCFM) and a Delhi-based NGO Madhyam, organised a Southern India level seminar on FTAs in Thiruvananthapuram.

On 30 January 2011, the Joshi Adhikari Institute of Social Sciences organised a meeting on agriculture which Focus supported; Focus also made a presentation on the FTA impacts on agriculture and health in India.

### *Study on Border Trade with Pakistan*

Focus did a short report on the border trade between India and Pakistan, also known as LoC (line of control) trade which was quite unique in the sense that it was largely based on a barter system and was allowed only on two routes - Uri-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot. Most of the actual traders were small businessmen; many of them have had exchanges with their own relatives in the either side of the LoC. The border trade between India and Pakistan has been an important Confidence-Building Measures (CBM) method and a way forward towards building peace between these two countries.

### *National Fishworkers Forum Conference*

Focus also contributed an article to the special issue of ALAKAL – the publication of the Kerala Independent Fishworkers Federation on fishing communities – published to celebrate the 2011 National Conference of the National Fishworkers Forum, which looked at the challenge of FTAs and climate change for traditional fishworkers.

In India several meetings were also held on the issue of finance. Among these were:

National Convention on the Anti POSCO which was jointly organised by Navdanya and the POSCO Prathirodh Sangharsh Samiti (Anti POSCO Movement) at the Constitution Club in New Delhi in January.

Seminar on The Macroeconomic Impact of the Financial Crisis 2008-09: A Capital Account Analysis of Germany, India and Japan organized by ICRIER on 10 February 2011.

In partnership with the National Hawkers Federation, National Alliance of Peoples Movements (NAPM), Delhi Forum and the South Asia office of the Bank Information Centre (BIC), Focus organised a 2-day national meeting on National and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in Kolkata from June 20-21, 2011. Some 65 people from 10 states attended the meeting. As a follow up, Focus co-organised a one day meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on 'International and National Financial Institutions – need for accountability and scrutiny'. The meeting was held as part of the various events coinciding with the National Conference of the National Fishworkers Forum mentioned above.

On 22 June, along with activist Medha Patkar and NAPM members in West Bengal, Focus Research Associate Benny Kuruvilla participated in a village level meeting and rally at Singur to discuss the implications of the Singur Land Rehabilitation and Development Bill

which mandates that the land acquired unwillingly from farmers be given back. The rally was widely covered in the regional and national media.

### **Thailand**

Focus on the Global South-Thailand Country programme together with FTA Watch continued its 2012 campaign directed at the government's preparations for an EU-Thai FTA negotiation. After series of public consultations on the EU-Thai FTA negotiations in 2010 organised by a committee appointed by the cabinet, which included Focus, there has been minimum development regarding the negotiation framework. The slow progress was partly the result of these consultations and mounting public pressure on the government. The pressure concentrated on two main areas of the potential negotiation, medicine and alcoholic beverages. Focus together with FTA Watch and allies organised a media campaign and related actions to keep the issues publicly visible and maintain pressure on the government and the EU.

The key action during the year was a protest action by a youth network and trade activists at the 'EU Film Festival' in Bangkok; the activity helped debunk and shame the EU's hidden economic interests. This and other campaign activities and their clear demands made it difficult for the Thai government to develop the negotiation framework, while the EU had sent strong signals that without the framework the negotiations might not happen.

Due to the strong lobby efforts in 2009 and 2010 from FTA Watch and allies, the National Health Assembly (an official body mandated to make recommendations to the government on public health policies) had adopted a resolution to set up the "Committee on Monitoring and Studying Impacts of FTA on Health and Public Health Policy." A Focus staff became member in this committee, which was a useful channel to access information and to generate exchanges with government officials. Currently the campaign is focused on pushing for the "Health Impact Assessment" to become mandatory prior to the ratification of an FTA. This is part of the process to democratise trade negotiation procedures which Focus has been pursuing over the years.

### **Philippines**

In the Philippines, the key campaign areas, as defined in the regional and national plans, were human rights (HR) advocacy, IPR and access to medicines. The campaign activities were undertaken through the EU-ASEAN FTA Network, which a Focus Philippines staff coordinates.

### *Trade and Human Right.*

In an effort to build the capacity of its members, the Philippine network participated in the Workshop on HR Approach to Economic Policy in Agriculture: Engendering the KL Guidelines in Response to a Fierce New World, 26-27 January 2011.

The network also conducted two brainstorming sessions with HR groups (23 March and 14 April) to develop members' understanding of human rights instruments and rights-based approaches to analyzing and campaigning on trade issues. The sessions were also an opportunity to discuss and share analysis on trade and FTAs with HR groups. In April the network also met with the representative of Terre des Hommes France on HR and Trade issues and discussed with him the possibility of linking up with the FTA campaign in Europe.

### *Access to Medicines*

Initial analysis on the Health Chapter of the EU-Philippines Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was undertaken by network member Woman Health. The network also had an initial meeting with groups working on the Cheaper Medicines campaign during which possible areas of convergence were discussed

A briefing on Issues and Challenges confronting the Cheaper Medicines Law and implications for intellectual property rights was co-organized with the Coalition on Health Advocacy and Transparency (CHAT) on 18 August 2011. The network made a presentation on the issue of trade and intellectual property rights.

The network spearheaded the drafting of the Joint Position Paper on FTA and TRIPS-plus provisions of the EU-ASEAN network and access to medicines advocacy networks (CHAT and the Medicine and Transparency Alliance) which was consolidated and presented to the government in a round table discussion organized on 7 October 2011.

### *Meeting with Asian Parliamentarians*

The network organized an informal dinner with Parliamentarians from Asia who were in Manila for a meeting on domestic workers rights and discussed with them the issue of FTAs in the region and the possibility of organizing a caucus of progressive parliamentarians working on trade and FTA issues. The 26 May dinner caucus was facilitated by partners Migrant Forum Asia and the Centre for Migrant Advocacy.

### *Dialogue with Government*

The network held a Dialogue on trade policy with DTI Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal on 24 March 2011. Some members of the network also participated in a series of consultations spearheaded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) called the One Country, One Voice (OCOV) in Manila, Davao and Cebu. Based in initial feedback from the members, the network sent a letter to the OCOV secretariat requesting for copies of the proceedings of these consultations and raised initial concerns over the design of the DTI-facilitated process.

### *Trade and Industrial Policy*

In an effort to develop a more strategic response to FTAs beyond a critique of the agreements, and as a follow-up to the discussion with DTI on the direction of trade policies, the network had brainstorming session/discussion on trade and industrial policy with Focus, DRTS Working Group on Trade and Industrial Policy, Freedom From Debt Coalition, Alliance of Progressive Labour, Attorney Nepo Malaluan of Action for Economic Reforms, and Dr. Rene Ofreneo of the Centre for Labour Justice. The group agreed to pursue several joint activities including a roundtable discussion with progressive economists, study sessions with sectors, forum on the future of manufacturing sector, and the possibility of organizing roundtable with economist Ha Joon Chang in 2012.

Focus is also including a chapter on trade, industrial policy and the prospects for industrial deepening in its book project on the Philippine political economy; the initial draft of the chapter was presented in a roundtable discussion on 2 December 2011.

### *National Investment Policy*

The Philippine network spearheaded the regional forum on investment in Manila 20-21 September 2011 (see above) and made presentations on the state of Philippine investment policy, case studies on agriculture and mining investments, as well as on investments and IPR.

The network also made a presentation on global and regional investment policy regime at a forum organized by Focus together with agrarian reform and agriculture advocacy groups and networks called Investments, Risks, and Dangerous Legacies: Roundtable Discussion-Strategy Session on Land, Forests, Fisheries, and Rural Investments in the Philippines, 25 November 2011.

### *Network Building and Coordination*

A total of four network meetings were held in 2011 (9 February, 16 May, 26 August, and 15 November) to



consolidate the plans and discuss strategies for specific activities and collectively respond to urgent campaign matters.

### *WTO and FTAs*

Members also participated in the Forum on Trade Agreements: Multilateral (WTO) and Bilateral (Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement and RP-EU) held on 1 February 2011, organized by Trade Advocates Group.

The EU-ASEAN Campaign Network heightened its campaign against the bilateral FTAs with ASEAN member states. The network now serves as the anchor of the national level campaign efforts in five countries in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam), as well as the mechanism for consolidating and coordinating a regional level response to the proposed deal. The regional network also represents the region in the global campaign challenging the EU FTAs.

## **ALTERNATIVE REGIONALISMS**

The Alternative Regionalisms Programme main activity was engagement of networks working on various sub-regional and regional issues: People's SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), Solidarity for Asian Peoples' Advocacies (SAPA, particularly the Working Group on ASEAN), the People's Agenda on Alternative Regionalisms (PAAR); and on broad civil society events like the ASEAN Peoples Forum/ASEAN Civil Society Conference.

Attempts to integrate issues, connect groups, and form cross-cutting regional/sub-regional advocacies were relatively successful. Focus played an important role in getting SAPA to move beyond Southeast Asia and to engage with more regional issues. For the second year, the SAPA General Forum (GF) was held in South Asia (Dhaka, Bangladesh in February) where experiences and lessons from the different sub-regions were discussed, highlighting Peace, Security and Human Rights issues in Asia. Jatin Desai of Focus India attended the GF, punctuating further Focus' commitment to make cross/sub-regional linkages.

In May, Focus, as part of the SAPA Working Group (WG) on ASEAN, WG on Environment and Task Force (TF) on ASEAN Freedom of Information (FOI), co-organised the first-ever People's Testimony on ASEAN and Human Rights, to discuss corporate liability, as a side activity to the APF/ACSC. This was the first joint activity of SAPA sub-groups, where issues of human rights, economic justice, environment, migration, and others were integrated. The initiative

helped highlight the need to determine targets of advocacy, and define a role for regional associations like ASEAN. This Public Hearing of People's Testimony on Corporate Social Responsibility was a full day side event organised a day before the APF/ACSC to highlight the negative effects of the operations of ASEAN-based transnational companies to the environment, health, social and community rights and livelihoods of people and marginalised communities in the region. Ten case studies were presented which highlighted the violations of TNCs and the efforts by affected communities and supporting NGOs to stop such violations, seek reparations and protect the rights of the communities. Around 140 people attended the event.

Focus believes that Freedom of Information is crucial in the democratisation of ASEAN, facilitates the inclusion of broad advocacies in ASEAN campaigning, links regional issues with national priorities, and targets meaningful participation in regional processes. Hence, it considers the FOI initiative as an important aspect of its alternative regionalisms work. Thus in 2012, Focus convened the first meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Freedom of Information in January. The Task Force participated and co-organised workshops in the APF/ACSC in Jakarta in May, and co-initiated letter-petitions to the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights for information disclosure. During the year several chapters were written for an ASEAN FOI Handbook, which is expected to be printed in early 2012. Letters of request for access to information on specific issues were sent to the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission of Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), and the ASEAN Secretariat. Unfortunately, except for the AICHR Chair who responded after four months, none of the other offices responded despite repeated follow-up.

Focus Philippines also actively campaigned for the passage of the FOI Act through its participation in the national network Right to Know Right Now.

Participation in broad civil society events paralleling official regional processes remained a limited but important aspect of Focus' alternative regionalisms work. Focus participated in the APF/ACSC, co-organised seven workshops, sat in the Steering Committee, spoke at and moderated plenary sessions, and organised side events. It was also in this occasion that Focus brought insights from other regions and discussed broad development issues that have regional implications through a workshop on regional financial cooperation that it co-organised with PAAR. The workshop brought together experts and advocates from Europe and Latin America and Southeast Asian advocates and experts.

Part of Focus' commitment to regionalism work is to highlight climate and environmental concerns

in regional platforms, and in 2011 it strengthened the Working Group on the Environment through the collection of information, media reports, statements and policy updates related to the Economic and Socio-cultural pillars of the ASEAN that can be used by the group in its advocacy work.

The planned APF in Bali didn't push through in August, and SAPA regional members instead opted for a series of connected smaller workshops on human rights and indigenous peoples, a women's caucus and the second public hearing on CSR and human rights in ASEAN in Bali in November. Focus Research Associate Dorothy Guerrero facilitated the Public Hearing and presented on "International Investment Regime and ASEAN Community Building Efforts."

The Peoples SAARC process was revived in India, on the initiative of Focus India. In important meetings. In coordination with others in the PSAARC process, a seminar on 'A people's vision of SAARC' was organised in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Focus Research Associate

Joy Chavez presented on possible areas for regional cooperation, advocacy and campaign, which was part of Focus' overall objective of putting practical substance to the notion of alternative regionalisms and regional alternatives; and its way of starting discussions on potential advocacy/campaign areas. The seminar had 50 participants from all over the region, with all SAARC countries being represented. The contours of an alternative regionalism in the framework of SAARC were discussed, vis-a-vis trade, climate, natural resources, peace and security. This same discussion was brought to the World Social Forum (WSF) in Dakar, Senegal during the PAAR session on regionalisms and responses to the crises.

Focus India staff joined the PSAARC team that visited Male in April, 2011, upon the invitation of representatives of Maldives civil society, to explore possible collaboration around the SAARC Summit in November. The PSAARC Team met with Maldives' civil society actors and the Government.

# Reclaiming the Commons Programme

Focus undertook research studies and participated in national/regional/international investigative processes in all the sub-programmes of the Reclaiming the Commons programme. There were studies on agro-fuels, contract farming, agribusiness operations, corporate control over resources, public goods and services, land and natural resource expropriations, land and natural resource tenure, water governance, and urban poor and rural economies. Through these studies, Focus showed links across various trends and models of use, distribution and governance of the commons, as well as their impacts at multiple levels.

Focus' ability to link issues and trends across multiple levels, sectors and locations was commended by social movements, CSOs, networks and academics. They also expressed appreciation of Focus' ability to take on leadership roles when needed, and provide credible and grounded analyses, predictions and proposals for change. Focus staff have been in great demand as trainers, teachers and resource persons in 'teach-in' events, conferences, seminars, workshops, and university and training courses.

Focus' research, analyses and knowledge have been widely disseminated through written outputs (such as articles, papers and publications), campaign actions and materials, and presentations in conferences and workshops. These have been used by social movements, CSOs, coalitions, networks, academics, policy makers and the press/media in their own analysis, writing, planning, and strategizing.

During the past three years, Focus intensified its research into and documentation of land grabbing and natural resource expropriations in the Asia region. Focus made the results of this research available to social movements, human rights advocates, CSOs, policy makers and academics through research papers, articles, presentations, training materials and written submissions into official policy processes. A primer for social movements and grassroots organisations with briefing papers on various aspects of defending land and the commons in the 21st century was released online in 2010 and published in 2011.

Focus also used these materials to strengthen its own advocacy for the rights of local communities and small scale producers to land and natural resources, and to challenge initiatives that promote market principles in the governance of land/natural resources. Through

the Global Campaign on Agrarian Reform (GCAR) and with allies such as GRAIN, Focus prepared and launched statements rejecting the World Bank-initiated Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) and briefing materials that discuss the problems with the RAI. These documents were widely circulated and used by social movements, CSOs and researchers, while Focus' efforts to build a collective campaign against the World Bank led approach to agricultural investment and land use were also supported by a wide range of actors.

Focus research, analyses and campaigning on land and natural resource issues have been recognised by social movements, academics, researchers and CSOs as accurate, grounded and comprehensive. Focus and the Land Research Action Network (LRAN) were invited to contribute several articles to the journal of the Society for International Development, Development Volume 54, Issue 1 (March 2011), on global land grabbing issues, including the introductory framework paper, a paper on Cambodia and Laos, and a paper on land and climate change. Focus staff and LRAN members have been invited to participate in and make presentations at prestigious international events on land, natural resources, water rights, food rights and human rights, as well to contribute to reports prepared by the UN Special Rapporteur for the Right to Food, on the relations between land tenure, land rights, agricultural production models and the Right to Food.

Focus has also contributed significantly to the ongoing global process to develop Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure on Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security by ensuring that the challenges and priorities of local communities are brought into inter-governmental negotiations. Focus staff have been involved in several stages of negotiations and drafting of civil society positions and proposals, and a Focus staff person is on the CSO international working group on land that is monitoring this process.

Focus completed a major research in Asia on alternatives to privatisation for the health, water and sanitation, and electricity sectors. The research was part of the Municipal Services Project (MSP) and included the Philippines, Thailand and India. Focus was also invited to serve on the Steering Committee of the project and hosted MSP steering committee meetings. The outputs of this research will be included in the MSP book to be published by Routledge in the first quarter of 2012.

In 2009 - 2010, Focus became active in the Reclaiming Public Water (RPW) Network and in 2010, Focus was one of the international conveners of the first RPW global strategy meeting. 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 and is anchoring the work of the network in Asia -- Southeast, East, and South Asia. Through both the MSP and RPW activities, Focus has maintained its leading edge in promoting democratic, transparent and equitable governance of essential public goods and services.

## CHALLENGING CAPITALIST AGRICULTURE/PROMOTING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

### India

Study and seminar on agrarian crisis and marginal farmers

In 2009-2010, Focus had supported the Joshi-Adhikari Institute of Social Studies to conduct a survey and study across eight Indian states to understand the impacts of new technological and economic environments on the production and marketing patterns of marginal farmers. The final report, *Agrarian Crisis: Life at stake in rural India*, was released in New Delhi on 31 January 2011 at an event co-organised by Joshi Adhikari Institute, Action Aid and Focus. The event was attended by political leaders, members of Parliament, agricultural experts, academics, farmer leaders, activists and students. The release of the report was preceded by a two-day seminar on "Agrarian Crisis" on 30-31 January 2011, co-organised by Focus and other organisations. At the seminar, Focus also made a presentation on Free Trade Agreements and their impacts on India agriculture.

Exchange visits, research and study on agro-ecology and Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)

Focus India was part of a proposed research cum study by La Via Campesina (LVC) South Asia on Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) in India, mainly in the state of Karnataka. The team will study and document how ZBNF methods pioneered by Subhash Palekar, are being practiced by small-scale and marginal farmers in both, dry and irrigated farmlands, and what economic, environmental and social benefits these farmers gain from these methods. As part of this initiative, Focus has been assigned to write two chapters of this study. The survey will be conducted in March – April 2012 and the first draft of the study is expected to be ready by June 2012.

In November 2011, Afsar Jafri and other staff members of Focus India participated in the planning of an Asian farmers visit to the agro-ecology farms in Karnataka, organised by LVC South Asia, and hosted by the Karnataka Rajya Ryota Sangha and the South Indian Coordination Committee of Farmers' Movements. Focus staff joined a delegation of more than 50 farmers and social movement activists from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, South Korea, Mexico and India that visited the farms. Afsar Jafri from Focus India made a presentation on "Government Response to Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers Movements" on 6 November at the International Seminar on Agro-ecology at the B.N Bahadur Institute of Management of Mysore University.

### Surviving Suicide: The Brave Women of Vidarbha

In September 2011, Focus published a report by Meena Karnik on the condition of women farmers, often neglected in the present agrarian crisis in India, focusing on the widows of farmers who have committed suicide. This report, *Surviving Suicide: The Brave Women of Vidarbha*, told the story of these women and highlighted their courageous struggle to save their farms and the livelihood of their families. The preface of this report was written by Afsar Jafri from Focus India.

### Indian Investment in African Land: Agriculture for profit, not for people

In mid-2011, Focus started an exploratory research project to show the nature and impacts of Indian investments in farmlands in Africa. The on-going study will show the extent of Indian occupation of African land and control over African water resources, depriving local communities of their livelihoods and basic necessities (especially water) for survival. The study is being finalised and will be published in 2012.

### Philippines

#### State of Filipino Women

In March, along with its partners from Welgang Kababaihan (an umbrella multi-sectoral coalition of various women groups), Focus launched the state of the Filipino women report, dubbed *Stories of and by Women in the Midst of Multiple Crises*. In a related event, the various government agencies working to address poverty situations in the country gathered in Quezon City on 29 March to present updates on what they have been doing to meet the poverty alleviation goals in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Focus was invited to be one of the reactors on behalf of Focus partner Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (a national coalition of rural



women's organizations), and also presented some of the joint research findings on the state of the Filipino women.

## **Thailand and Mekong**

Over the past three years, Focus has built a Mekong region programme that persistently links the development-investment models in the region, climate change, livelihoods, and the rights of local communities to resources. Focus has been active in the Save the Mekong coalition, and has connected CSOs from mainland China with CSOs and local network representatives from other countries in the Mekong region. Focus completed significant studies on agribusiness, agro-fuels, rural economies and access to land and natural resources that show links between corporate operations, use of natural resources and rural livelihoods, and are being used by CSOs, networks and policy makers.

## **Agribusiness operations and expansion.**

In August 2010, Focus co-organised a regional workshop, Food, Livelihoods and Climate Change in the Mekong region with that explored climate change in light of the dominant development model in the region. From 26-27 July 2011, Focus participated in a regional workshop in Bangkok on agribusiness expansion in the Mekong region. Senior Associate Shalmali Guttal joined the Steering Committee to help develop the workshop programme, process and sessions, and identify appropriate presenters. At the workshop, Focus Coordinator Chanida Bamford presented the main findings of research that was later published in a September 2011 report titled Agribusiness Expansion in the Mekong Region: The Thai Experience.

## **Contract farming in Cambodia.**

Focus encouraged and worked with a team of young activist researchers in Cambodia, known as Social Action for Change (SAC), who are interested in developing additional capacities in the analysis of natural resource management policies and poverty in the rural areas of Cambodia. Focus has supported SAC's work in examining the nature of contract farming in Cambodia and how, if at all, it has affected power relations within market-oriented food production. The final report of the study is available in English and currently being translated into Khmer. The English and Khmer versions will be released jointly online when the Khmer version is ready.

## **Impacts of economic changes in the Lao PDR.**

In February, Focus published Occasional Paper 9, A Tale of Two Economies, presenting an analysis of the findings of a collaborative 2010 study that Focus staff participated in on how national economic policies and the expansion of commercial agriculture have affected smallholder farming families and communities in the Lao PDR. An earlier version of the research report was officially released in 2010 in English and Lao languages. The findings of the research are being used by the Lao Ministry of Agriculture's programme for agricultural extension.

## **Reviewing Corporate Social Responsibility.**

Focus carried out research on the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices of two agribusiness companies in Thailand, Charoen Pokphand (CP) and KSL (originally Khon Kaen Sugar Industry), comparing their practices in Thailand and in Cambodia. A penultimate draft was submitted to SOMO, which provided continuous support for Focus work on transnational companies, for comments and possible joint publication.

## **Regional/International**

As part of the SAPA (Solidarity for Asian Peoples' Advocacy) Regional Coordinating Committee, Focus co-organised a Public Hearing on Corporate Social Responsibility in the ASEAN, during the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) meetings in Indonesia.

## **DECOMMODIFICATION AND AGRARIAN REFORM**

### **India**

Upon the invitation of Food-first Information and Action Network Nepal and Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. Afsar Jafri of Focus India made a presentation on "Agrarian Reform in the Era of Globalisation" at their three-day workshop, Agrarian Reform for Social Justice and Development: South Asian Perspectives held in Nepal in May 2011.

## Philippines

Through research and publication of this research on the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme (CARPER), Focus provided NGOs and people's organizations working on agrarian reform and rural development with an arsenal of analysis and tools on the state of agrarian reform in the country. As part of its commitment to push for an effective control of land by the landless, near landless and small farmers, farm workers and rural women, Focus also continued to closely monitor the implementation of CARPER and supported national struggles for land through research/analyses, writing and participating in coalitions. Focus engaged directly with the main implementing agencies of CARPER—the Department of Agrarian Reform and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC)—on agrarian reform policies, and actively participated in various consultations of the agencies and became a member of the working group on CARPER convened by NAPC.

Focus also monitored issues related to CARPER implementation such as the land grabbing phenomenon and government's policy/projects on agricultural investments such as agro-fuel expansion in agrarian reform areas. Focus conducted two roundtable discussions on rural investments and the right to food with partner organisations, and another one on agro-fuels. Focus also co-organised and presented at a national conference on land deals and agro-investments. Focus continued to steer the Development Roundtable Series (DRTS) process on agrarian reform and rural development as a commitment to working closely with other advocates, peoples' organisations and rural social movements. With Centro Saka, Inc, Focus presented a policy paper on agrarian reform at the DRTS State of the Nation Address (SONA) forum on 18 July.

In September, Focus launched the July – August issue of its Policy Review, carrying CARPER as its main theme, via a special forum on the state of CARPER and agrarian reform in the country. The forum was attended by more than 100 representatives of civil society and rural social movements, government agencies (from the executive and legislative) and media. As a result of the interest that the forum and publication stirred, sectors and advocates of agrarian reform created a coalition called Save Agrarian Reform Alliance (SARA), co-convened by Focus with other agrarian reform advocacy groups, KATURANGAN and PKKK (rural women's coalition). Focus also conducted capacity building workshops organized by networks such as the Agri-Aqua Development Coalition in Mindanao. Focus staff provided inputs to the coalition, which has not discussed agrarian reform for the last decade.

## *Support for land rights*

Through popularization of the issue nationally and internationally, resource facilitation, research/analysis and media work, Focus also participated in and supported campaigns on land rights such as on the Hacienda Luisita struggle and the recovery of coconut levy funds. Focus was also involved in the campaign to reclaim Laguna Lake, with member organisations adopting the organization's commons framework and discourse.

## China

### *Mytisone Dam Campaign in China*

From August to November, Focus engaged in a campaign against the Mytisone dam inside China by helping Burmese and international groups collect information about China Power Investment Corporation. A Focus staff based in Beijing helped in translating press releases on Mytisone into Chinese, and discussed a possible campaign in China with several NGOs working on Chinese overseas investments. The subsequent announcement of Mytisone Dam project's suspension intensified debates over the dam, CPI's (implementing Chinese company) social responsibility and China-Burma relations.

Focus disseminated information on reasons for the suspension and Burmese ethnic conflicts through the Chinese social networking website Sina Weibo, the main site for social discourse in China and largely followed by NGOs, researchers and progressive academics in China. Interviews and information, including critical perspectives from Burmese campaigners, were also given to several journalists that worked on the issue.

### *Advocacy Campaign for Clean Air in Beijing*

Focus also engaged in online advocacy campaign for improving the quality of air in Beijing. The Beijing-based staff participated in several NGO meetings related to air pollution and joined the public request for air monitoring scheme in Beijing.

### *Climate/Environment-related Meetings and Workshops*

Focus staff participated in the annual meeting of the All-China Environmental Non-government Organizations for Sustainable Development, on 6-8 November in

Guangdong Province. During this meeting, Focus staff facilitated a session on Social and Environmental Impacts of Large Infrastructure Development and Public Participation.

## **Thailand and Mekong**

### ***Community title in Thailand***

In September, Focus' Rebeca Leonard began a research paper on the experience of the Thai community land reform movement in innovating, developing and promoting title to collectively held lands as a means to achieve long term security of tenure and sustainable land management. The paper will be completed in early 2012, translated into Thai and discussed with the Thai land reform movement.

### ***Land and Natural Resource Rights in Cambodia***

Focus continued its work with local networks of community based activists in Cambodia. Through the project Supporting Knowledge Generation Among Community Led Networks, Focus continued training local activists and network members in how to use action research methods to document land-natural resource conflicts and struggles, and formulate strategies for action in response and appropriate to local conditions. To date, 60 community activists have been trained in how to use basic action research methodology at the village level to address conflicts over land, forests, fisheries and natural resources. An external evaluation conducted in September-October found that the project structure, process and methodology has been very effective in building the skills and self-confidence of local activists, and proposed that the project continue for another two years. In December, the technical support team (which is led by Focus staff) for the project met all the action research team members to discuss the evaluation findings and plan the next phase of the project.

In January, Focus and the Heinrich Boell Foundation organised a seminar for grassroots community based activists to share their experiences of organising resistance to land and resource grabbing with national and international NGOs in Phnom Penh. In March, workshops were held with the local action research teams to design participatory evaluations of the different land and natural resource struggles.

Also in March, Focus staff Shalmali Guttal and Rebeca Leonard visited forest areas in northwest Cambodia to meet with villages located in REDD pilot areas and contiguous to sugarcane plantations, to understand better how to shape Focus' work on REDD and land/forest rights in Cambodia. In August, Shalmali Guttal visited communities in the Northeast region

of Cambodia to understand how REDD has been introduced and developed in that area and the extent to which local communities have been involved in REDD project design and planning. Focus also assisted a local NGO in Cambodia to plan an October workshop on community rights to land and forests in the context of conservation and REDD projects, with participants from across the country gathering in the north-western province of Oddar Meanchey.

In August, Focus visited several villages in the north-eastern part of Cambodia to interview village residents about their experiences with applying for and gaining community title for the farmlands, forests, village commons and housing lands. Focus staff are trying to understand what types of land titling and formalisation processes guarantee (to the maximum extent possible) local communities secure tenure over land and natural resources. These findings will be presented in a research paper in the first quarter of 2012.

### ***Strategy meeting on natural resource rights and issues***

On 22-23 February, Focus convened a strategy meeting of civil society organisations, researchers and activists working on natural resource issues and rights in the Mekong region. Participants included people based in the Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand, Japan, Australia and the US. It is anticipated that such strategy meetings will be organised at least annually, if not more frequently.

### ***Save the Mekong***

Focus joined the Save the Mekong Campaign (StM) in the first quarter of 2009 and has been an active member of the campaign since then. In 2011, Focus staff joined other StM members in drafting and circulating letters and petitions to the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and the governments of Thailand, the Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam, urging them to not go ahead with the Xainyaburi dam. Focus also joined StM members in providing critiques to the public and media of the studies conducted thus far by the project developers and proponents that justify the dam. The most recent letter was submitted to the MRC on December 6, just ahead of a crucial MRC meeting on how to proceed with decision making about the dam.

On August 14-19, the StM campaign held its annual strategy meeting in the province of Ratanakiri in Cambodia. Focus Senior Associate Shalmali Guttal was on the steering committee to plan and organise the meeting, and facilitated many of the sessions and activities in the meeting.

## **Regional/International**

Mobilising against land-grabbing.

From 6-8 April, Focus participated in an international conference on global land grabbing at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, England. Focus staff made presentations in one of the conference plenaries and served as a resource person in a workshop.

Also in April, Focus and the Land Research Action Network (LRAN) collaborated with La Via Campesina, FIAN International, GRAIN and several other organisations to release a statement against the World Bank-led Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment that Respect Rights, Livelihoods and Resources (RAI). The statement was released on 17 April, just ahead of the World Bank's annual land conference in Washington DC, and received a great deal of international attention from the media, academics, researchers and CSOs.

From 15-20 November, Focus participated in an international conference, Stop Land Grabbing, organised by La Via Campesina in Selingue, Mali. The conference was attended by social movements, CSOs, academics, researchers and film-makers from all over the world. Focus and FIAN International drafted the conference declaration. A global alliance against land-grabbing was launched at the conference and Focus will likely continue our involvement in this alliance.

### ***Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform.***

Through LRAN, Focus has been a member of the Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform (GCAR) since 2005 and has been mandated by other Campaign members to take the lead in organising activities and events in the Asia region. On World Food Day (16 October), Focus launched the publication, *Defending the Commons, Territories and the Right to Food and Water*, LRAN Briefing Paper Series no. 2, on behalf of GCAR. An earlier version of the collection was launched electronically in October 2010.

From 9-11 November, Focus organised a GCAR strategy meeting for the Asia region in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with movement leaders from several Asian countries (Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Philippines, Nepal and India) discussing the access rights of local communities to land and natural resources, and renew collective efforts to promote agrarian reform in Asia. Focus is now preparing a training curriculum to respond to some of the needs identified during the meeting.

### ***Transparency initiatives on land and natural resources.***

In discussion with allies from research and human rights organisations, Focus is working on developing a critique of approaches to modify the behaviour of land-grabbing corporations/actors that place primary importance on promoting "transparency". Focus has contributed to an international collaborative paper with the Transnational Institute on this subject, which is expected to be published early 2012. Focus also helped to shape a paper prepared by Mr. Kees Visser—a visiting researcher at Focus from the Netherlands—that reviews the form, process, results and critiques of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), to be published in early 2012.

Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure on Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

Focus has been involved in the global process to secure strong, community-friendly and ecologically sustainable Guidelines since 2009. In 2009-2010, Focus staff helped to organise civil society and social movement consultations on the Guidelines in Asia, drafted the Asia civil society consultation report, and co-drafted the global civil society document that synthesised the results of all the civil society and social movement consultations on the Guidelines that were held in numerous regions across the world. The civil society synthesis document on the Guidelines was submitted to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) March 2011. Shortly thereafter, the technical working group appointed by the CFS produced the "zero draft" of the Guidelines for comments. Since then, Focus staff has been involved with social movements, unions and CSOs in monitoring the negotiations among governments on every subsequent draft of the Guidelines and proposing language to ensure that priority demands from the civil society synthesis document are reflected in the official Guidelines. Focus staff also participated in CFS sessions in Rome to influence the negotiations on the Guidelines.

## **ESSENTIAL GOODS AND SERVICES**

### **India**

In January, Focus was invited to present our study on alternatives to water privatisation and commercialisation at a high level meeting of government officials -- Water Partnerships towards meeting Climate Change— in Chennai, India. The Centre for Law, Policy and Human Rights Studies, a civil society organisation based in Chennai, organised a social movement gathering on water struggles and experiences, where Focus staff was



also invited to speak on Asian water justice movements.

### ***Anti-Water Privatisation Campaign in Delhi***

Focus India is the founding member of the anti-water privatisation campaign Pani Hakk Abhiyan (Right to Water Movement), launched in May 2011 in Delhi by more than 70 civil society groups, mass movements, NGOs, researchers and activists. Since its launch, the campaign has been active in raising public awareness through public speeches and road shows at different intersections in Delhi. Pamphlets have also been printed and are being distributed to educate the citizens of Delhi about the various water privatisation initiatives of the Government of Delhi, and inviting citizens to join the campaign to oppose the privatisation. Focus India also published a report on the rampant corruption in the Delhi Water Board, especially in the tendering process for the refurbishment of the Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant.

Through the campaign, Focus was invited to join a committee of experts to oppose the privatisation of water supply system in Delhi. So far the campaign has organised several locality-wise conventions in different parts of Delhi. On November 15, the campaign organised a Citizen's Convention against water privatization; on December 11, protests were organised in different parts of the city. The committee plans to develop campaign materials to raise local awareness about the government moves to bring in water privatisation, and will hold dialogue and debate with resident welfare associations and other citizens' fora to mobilise them against the government actions to privatise Delhi's water supply.

## **Philippines**

### ***Alternatives to commercialisation and privatisation of water***

Throughout the year, Focus popularized its research on alternatives to privatization and commercialization of water services as part of its work with the Reclaiming Public Water and Municipal Services Project, and its own Development Roundtable Series (DRTS) through training and speaking engagements, and organizing of fora and roundtables with various actors in the water sector in the country.

In February, Focus attended the general assembly of the Philippine Association of Water Districts, held in Davao City. In March, Focus Research Associate Mary Ann Manahan was a speaker on alternatives and water justice at a two-day conference on water in Hong Kong organised by Globalization Monitor to coincide with the World Water Day. The public event brought together 40-60 people from civil society, academe, and unions from Hong Kong and Mainland China. Another small

roundtable was organised with Hong Kong civil society groups and public which featured Mary Ann Manahan as the main speaker. In celebration of World Water Day, Focus also co-organised a forum on integrated water resources management and its role in local economic planning, with our partners in the Visayas. The event was attended by multi-sectoral groups from Leyte and Cebu and produced action plans and policy proposals, especially for the new government.

### ***Rights to public water and sanitation services***

In April, Focus staff participated at a roundtable discussion on "Macroeconomics and the Rights to Water and Sanitation" organised by the US-based Centre for Women's Global Leadership. The meeting brought together experts from diverse backgrounds including the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water and Sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque.

In May, Focus co-organised a workshop on water, "Navigating Critical Waters: Issues, Challenges and Alternatives to the Privatization and Commercialization of Water in Asia" at the ASEAN Peoples Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In July, Focus presented the summary of the integrative paper on water resources and services, *Treading Troubled Waters*, which we co-authored with Visayas State University Institute for Strategic Research and Development Studies (VSU ISRDS). The full paper is ready for printing and will be released in early 2012.

In addition, Focus continued its work on water rights and building alternatives to privatisation through several collaborations. Focus maintained its activities with public utilities through concrete partnerships / public-public partnerships with the PAWD, the Alliance of Government Workers in Water Sector, and VSU ISRDS. In the Performance Benchmarking capacity building programme, a series of meetings and workshops were conducted in 2011.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted and the benchmarking modules were finally presented in meetings with PAWD in October and November. This MOU between the various water users of the Binahaan watershed to create an integrated water resource management system and mechanism to protect the precious source of water was a concrete gain from the DRTS process, which has allowed policy proposals to emerge from the ground, giving ample space to voices of the poor and marginalized were given ample space.

Focus also continued to collaborate with other organisations on the capacity building programme on Watershed Management and Integrated Water Resources Management. A short video documentary on the role of the community water systems in the Philippines, *Patak-Patak (Drop by Drop)*, was made

to highlight the role of community and cooperative water systems that are bridging the gap in water service provision, particularly in poor and 'waterless' areas in Metro Manila. The video will be ready for upload and distribution in early 2012.

# Peace and Democracy

Focus on the Global South has been working at regional and international levels to reverse the militarization trends of our society, contribute to conflict resolution based on peoples' security, and confront imperialism regionally and internationally.

## SOUTH ASIA

### Visit of Indian Delegation to Pakistan

Focus had been engaged with this initiative from conception to implementation. Focus helped organize and joined a delegation that went to Pakistan in March 2011 and visited for seven days the cities of Karachi, Hyderabad, Islamabad and Lahore. Besides meeting 3,000-4,000 students and 600 activists during these visits, the delegation also met some high profile media personnel, law makers, and other top government officials, including the Indian High Commissioner and the Prime Minister himself. The delegation pushed for the resumption of the peace process and curbing of militancy and religious extremism. A week after the Pakistan visit, the Indian PM invited his counterpart to Mohali on 30 March to witness the World Cup semi-final between India and Pakistan. For the delegation, the effect of the Pakistan visit was better understanding of the youth of Pakistan as well as of the perspective of Pakistan government officials.

### Resolution of problem of Indian - Pakistan fisher folk and other prisoners

Focus kept its involvement in the lobby for the release of Indian and Pakistan fisher folk caught at the nautical borders between India and Pakistan. Focus, along with PILER, Boat Owners Association, and National Fish Workers Forum, organized a second round table conference in Delhi in September 2011. The meeting, attended by around 35 people from both India and Pakistan representing various stakeholders, reviewed the impact of the efforts that had been so far made by civil society and advocacy organizations in the past year. The first roundtable on the situation of the fishers had been held in April 2010.

Civil society organizations from India and Pakistan subsequently visited coastal areas of Gujarat and Diu in September 2011. It was the first time a Pakistani delegation visited these areas and met with hundreds of

people from the fishing community.

Focus held a press conference after this visit.

As one of the petitioners, Focus also attended Supreme Court hearings on the imprisoned fishers in 2010; 500 of such prisoners had been released by India and 200 by Pakistan.

Focus engaged in a campaign for the release of Dr. Chishty, an 80-year old Pakistani, who had been life imprisonment in January 2011 after already being imprisoned in India for 20 years during his prolonged trial. Focus was also involved in getting five Pakistani sailors back to Pakistan from India who had been previously rescued by the Indian Navy from Somali pirates.

As part of efforts envisioned having long term impacts on confidence building, Focus conducted the following to further promote regular dialog between the peoples of Pakistan and India:

1) A cultural evening and dialogue with Timur Rehman from the Laal group, a leading band from Lahore, Pakistan. Timur is also a teacher with the Lahore University Management Sciences.

2) A seminar on Blasphemy Law and Democracy for the people of Mumbai, following the assassination of Salman Taseer and Shahbaz Bhatti, who had been advocating for an amendment of the Blasphemy Law in Pakistan..

3) A public meeting on Democratic Aspirations of the Sub-Continent including the speakers B.M. Kutty, Sharaft Ali and Mahesh Bhatt.

### Solidarity with Kashmir

Focus formed a Kashmir Solidarity Group, a broad network of individuals and organisations working on human rights issues in Kashmir. From January through June 2011, the group held film screenings and discussions in various colleges of Mumbai to expose the youth to realities in Kashmir. Also in June, the group conducted its first public meeting in Mumbai on the topic "Human Rights Violations in Kashmir." The main speakers for the evening were Parveena Ahangar, Dilynaz Boga and Freny Maneckshaw. An estimated 100

people attended.

Focus had also been instrumental in the conduct of the first meeting in Mumbai, September 2010, after the renewed unrest and violence in Kashmir. The meeting brought people from Kashmir to talk to the public in Mumbai about the human rights violations and the ground situation in Kashmir.

## **Peace Summit in the Philippines**

Focus staff and allies from Stop the War Coalition Philippines participated in the 6th Mindanao People Peace Summit in December 2010, which was attended by more than 300 people from the different sectors of Mindanao's movements for peace, including indigenous peoples and migrant communities.

In this summit, Focus and Stop the War Coalition Philippines organized a workshop on "Foreign Military Presence and its Impact on Mindanao's Peace and Security." In addition to this, Focus also organized a plenary session on "Democracy and Self-Determination" as a means to present the parallels between Palestine-Israel conflict and the between the peoples of Mindanao and Philippine government.

## **INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS**

### **Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel apartheid**

Focus was an active partner of the Palestinian BNC (Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions National Committee) and other allies in developing the BDS campaign in Asia, especially in India. In September 2010 Focus co-organised a conference and a speaking tour in India for the BDS campaign. As an active participant in World Social Forum (WSF) workshops and forums, Focus was instrumental in getting strong statements from the WSF about Palestine and the Middle East in general, including an assembly declaration supporting the international BDS campaign against Israeli apartheid.

Focus had also played a major role in a 2009 campaign that aimed at putting pressure on the economy of Israel. Huge campaigns were launched in that year against Veolia and Agrexco and the Norwegian government, which eventually decided to discontinue investments in the Israeli firm Elbit.

### **The Second Freedom Flotilla for Gaza.**

In 2010, Focus supported the first Freedom Flotilla for Gaza that sailed at the end of May 2010 from different

European ports (Turkey, Greece, Ireland) and gathered around 600 passengers from more than 40 countries. Focus helped mobilise supporters in Asia and Europe before the Flotilla sailed and organised solidarity events in the Philippines following the deadly attacks against the Flotilla.

In the summer of 2010, the International Freedom Flotilla Coalition decided to organize a Second Freedom Flotilla to sail in the summer of 2011. Thomas Sommer of Focus was part of the steering committee and sent to Europe to help organize the second Flotilla. The campaign for the Freedom Flotilla II was launched in early October 2010. The Freedom Flotilla II gathered coalitions from more than 20 countries, mainly in Europe, North America, and the Middle East, and with some organizations from Latin America. The year-long campaign aimed at raising awareness and support to end the blockade of Gaza. In June 2011, all coalitions gathered in Greece and Turkey to leave for Gaza with 12 boats; the Freedom Flotilla organizers faced a coalition of European countries and institutions determined to prevent the flotilla to leave port.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon himself stated that the flotilla should be stopped. Greek and Turkish governments used all legal (and sometimes illegal) means to stop the Flotilla. Two boats were sabotaged; Greek navy commandos and the Turkish army prevented some boats to leave; others were trapped in administrative procedures. Only one boat succeeded to leave for Gaza after one month of negotiating with the Greek government and was stopped 30 miles off the Gaza shore by 12 Israeli warships.

### **La Via Campesina Mid-term Conference**

Focus participated in the workshops, meetings and plenary of Via Campesina mid-term conference in Nantes, France, in March 2011. Focus co-organised a plenary on "TNC-repression-security-militarisation."

### **First Arab Revolutions Forum**

Focus participated in the First Arab Revolutions Forum held in Cairo, June 2011. More than twenty delegations from all over the Arab world, as well as elsewhere in Asia, Europe and America, participated in the forum to learn and understand the revolutionary process in the Middle East (West Asia) and North Africa and to organise international solidarity to support it.



# Climate Justice Campaign

In the past three years, Focus on the Global South has contributed a great deal on climate justice debates and supported local, regional and international climate justice processes and networks. Focus is a recognised actor in the field of climate change and climate justice. For example, Focus has been invited to contribute to research projects and books, to speak at conferences and workshops, to provide climate justice education sessions, and to host workshops and debates.

Over the past three years, Focus' work on climate justice has taken root in both the national programmes, as well as regionally and internationally. In the Philippines, Focus was one of the founders of the Philippines Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) and in Thailand, Focus is a key member of the Thai Working Group on Climate Justice (TCJ). In India, climate justice coalitions have not been formalised, however Focus is active in an informal national network of groups working together in a climate justice framework. Regionally, Focus has tried to raise awareness and create linkages through workshops, trainings and conferences on issues such as REDD, clean development mechanism (CDM) and climate change and climate justice generally. Focus has also been a lead organisation in pushing for the ASEAN "environmental" pillar. Internationally, Focus was a founding member and a driving force in the Climate Justice Now! (CJN!) network, and has tried to link local social movements and activists into the international processes, including the UNFCCC and CJN!.

In addition to the work specifically related to climate change (adaptation, mitigation and financing) Focus has engaged in debates on emerging issues such as "de-growth", "green growth", "just transition" and the Rights of Mother Earth, and had re-engaged with the "sustainability" debate as we approach the 20th anniversary of the Earth Summit.

Focus' view is that climate change is a result of the current model of development, based on unsustainable extraction, production and consumption patterns, which result in environmental degradation and social precarity and inequality. As such, research, education and campaigning on climate change and climate justice opens up important debates on national economic, environmental and development policies.

## INTERNATIONAL

At the WorldSocial Forum in Dakar 7-11 February, Focus collaborated with dozens of social movements and NGOs to organise a range of climate justice events, including reporting-back and debates on the outcomes of the Cancun COP16, roundtable discussions on Rio +20, preparations for Durban COP17, and the Climate Justice Convergence which produced the "Call for Climate Justice" -- a statement of unity looking ahead to Durban COP17 and Rio +20.

Focus staff participated in the "Global Greenhouse Gas Tax Draft Treaty Workshop" 21-22 January 2011, organised by the Centre of Excellence in Global Governance Research at the University of Helsinki, to brainstorm if and how a tax could be levied to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote the common good.

In April, Focus participated in the civil society consultation of the United Nations' Global Sustainability Panel, with many of Focus' contributions included in the final summary report. Focus' Nicola Bullard also contributed to the special edition "Challenges on Sustainability" Development Volume 54, Issue 1 (March 2011) on the key issues twenty years after the Earth Summit, and almost 30 years after the Brundtland Commission Report. Focus also contributed to the book "The Rights of Nature: The Case for a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth", published by the Council of Canadians.

During the Bangkok UNFCCC intercessional, 3-8 April, Focus, along with other organisations from the Thai Working Group on Climate Justice (TCJ) and the Philippines Movements for Climate Justice (PMCJ), organised a one-day panel discussion on the "Rights of Mother Earth". A workshop entitled "REDD in Southeast Asia: a political economy perspective" was co-organised by Focus to widen the discussion on the concepts and critiques of REDD (Programme for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). Around 55 participants gathered together from Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, India, Nepal, and Japan. Mobilizations were also organised outside the UNFCCC meetings, and a meeting was held

between Philippine, Thai and Indonesian national-level networks to plan further information exchange and collaboration in regional events.

Focus staff also participated in the COP-17 in Durban South Africa 28 November – 11 December 2011. In addition to assisting in the daily CJN! meetings and press conferences, Focus staff joined the “Occupy COP” and La Via Campesina actions, tweeted updates, and co-convened meetings to prepare for the Rio +20 which will be held in June 2012. Focus also joined a two-day author’s seminar in preparation for a forthcoming publication on climate change and security, to which we will contribute a chapter on water.

In June, Focus participated in the UNCTAD public symposium on “Transitioning to a Just and Green Economy” as well as the Dijon Summer University on “Uncertainties Surrounding Global Governance: 20 years after Rio”.

In October, Nicola Bullard co-authored with Tadzio Mueller a paper for the UNRISD Conference on the Social Dimensions of the Green Economy (Geneva 10-11 October) entitled “Beyond the Green Economy: Global movements for climate justice in a fracturing world”. The paper will be published in a forthcoming issue of Development.

In November, Focus participated in the Seoul Democracy Forum and presented a paper entitled “Global trends of discussion on the climate crisis”. In December, the book “Monitoring the governance of climate finance: Critical perspectives from Africa, Asia and Latin America” was launched at the COP 17 in Durban. The book includes three chapters by Focus. The book will be posted to the Focus website in 2012.

Focus Climate Team member Dorothy Guerrero contributed a study on the emerging global climate justice movement to the prestigious London School of Economics Annual Civil Society Yearbook. Global Civil Society 2011 focuses on how civil society actors around the world are framing, contesting and promoting ideas and practices about justice, as well as the strategies to tackle injustices communities face.

Ms. Guerrero was also invited to present five lectures under the theme “Environmental Security and Climate Change: Issues and Voices from the Global South” at the UN-funded University of Peace MA course of the Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines in May. She also presented a lecture on “Climate Change and the ASEAN” at the International MA Program on Environment, Development and Sustainability of Chulalongkorn University in Thailand in September.

The Focus climate team, comprising staff in Thailand, Philippines and India, met every month by conference call or in person. Our team members

regularly used social network sites to post links and information about climate, environment and energy-related issues, with our Facebook site receiving an average of 700-800 monthly visitors.

## REGIONAL

### ASEAN

Our regional engagement on climate justice is linked with our work with the Solidarity for ASEAN Peoples Advocacy (SAPA) network and the organising around the annual ASEAN parallel event, which is the ASEAN People’s Forum/ASEAN Civil Society Conference (APF/ACSC). The last one was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in May. Our engagement is through the Working Group on the Environment, which is being co-coordinated by Focus on the Global South as a regional platform to particularly engage the ASEAN on climate change, environment, and development issues related to the ASEAN Community building thrusts.

In the May ASEAN Peoples Forum in Jakarta (mentioned above), Focus on the Global South was the lead organiser of the workshop “A Search for Just Solutions to the Climate Crisis in ASEAN”.

Together with CDM Watch, Focus co-organised the first Southeast Asian regional workshop on carbon markets, held in Bangkok in mid-October, with participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and Cambodia. The three-day event discussed the flaws of carbon mechanisms and the problems with the CDM framework.

Focus continues to be a leader in providing a critical perspective on the development framework in the region. Such perspective is very much needed as many resource-rich countries in the region are increasingly affected by calamities that are linked to climate change. ASEAN is a key actor pushing for a new regional community and climate justice must be at the centre of such a project. Focus staff provide analysis and leadership in initiatives that questions the region’s development paradigm and in presenting alternative ideas from both the community and global discourses. Our workshops are not only providing the “first” opportunity for groups to come together on complex themes like carbon markets and market mechanisms, they also provide a rich resource of data and information from various perspectives.

### Mekong

In February 2011, Focus Senior Associate Shalmali Guttal was a keynote speaker at a conference titled “Reframing Sustainability? Climate Change and North-

South Dynamics,” organised by the Finnish Society of Development Research and several other national organisations. Ms. Guttal was invited to summarise the main points of her presentation in an essay that will be published in the international journal *Forum for Development Studies* in 2012.

In March 2011, Cambodia presented its REDD Readiness Plan for approval to the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in a meeting held in Vietnam. Focus assisted Cambodian civil society and forest network members to review the Cambodia plan and prepare interventions for the Vietnam meeting. Focus staff also visited two of the proposed REDD project areas in northwest Cambodia to understand the challenges that local communities face with regard to access to forests and protecting the quality of forests, and also the extent to which local communities have been able to participate in the preparation of REDD projects.

In August, Focus staff visited an area in northeast Cambodia that is proposed as another REDD project. Following from these field visits and interviews with local community members, and national and international NGOs engaging with the REDD projects, Focus staff assisted an NGO in northwest Cambodia to organise a workshop in October among representatives from 15 forest areas that are slated for REDD projects to discuss how their rights to land and forests can be protected through, or despite, REDD projects. Research into the expansion of the agrofuel sector in the Mekong Region was completed and a background paper report was produced and published in August 2011 under the title “Agrofuels – A boost of energy for the Mekong region?”

Focus was invited to prepare a dedicated course on Climate Justice to students at the Earth Rights Mekong School, with students specially selected from Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, China, Tibet, Burma and Vietnam.

## China

Focus's involvement with the World Energy Revolution Project included a seven-week trip in China was made by project coordinator Kolya Abramsky and Focus China programme staff Yu Yin. A report on the visit was written by Abramsky and Yu in August. Yu Yin continued desk research on energy issues and wrote another report based on the trip that featured more insights from her own Chinese perspective. The two collected a vast amount of documents, articles and papers during the trip, which are now compiled and will be organized as database to be available on the Focus website by early 2012.

Focus continued sharing important and up to date climate related news and analysis through our email service Climate Justice News. In addition, there

were five issues of our Focus on China news bulletin published within 2011, with news articles related to China's climate, environment and energy policies as well as progressive NGO initiatives on climate. Focus also published an evaluation of China's domestic and external stance on climate policy, “China's New Climate Diplomacy in the COP16”.

## India

Though the buzz around climate justice decreased in India after the failure of the Copenhagen meeting and the dismal outcome at Cancun, there were several vibrant struggles against unsustainable projects. In 2011 Focus was an important part of the emerging anti-nuclear energy movement. Focus also played a key role in working with the traditional fishworkers community to bring various experts and organisations together in demystifying climate policy, understanding impacts and the need for intervening on issues such as the emerging policy area of climate adaptation on the coast. Focus also built on its earlier work on climate finance in 2010 and contributed to key initiatives on CDM in 2011. Despite the low-ebb of the India Climate Justice Group in 2011, Focus continued to play a useful bridging role in terms of network building on various issues related to climate justice. In March a two-day meeting was held at the Focus office with members of the India Climate Justice Group to discuss global, regional and national issues related to the climate justice movement.

Focus attended meetings from 15-16 March 2011 in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi with the Kerala Independent Fishworkers Federation (KSMTF) and Kabani on issues related to climate finance, nuclear energy and state action plans on climate change (SAPCC). With the fall out from the 11 March 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster it was decided to organise a public meeting and film screening to create awareness about nuclear as a false solution and highlight the implications of the proposed nuclear plant in neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

From 21-23 March 2011, Focus participated in the India Board meeting of the Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) in Himachal Pradesh, and gave a presentation on climate policy in India and the response of civil society organisations and social movements.

In March 2011, Focus joined several movements and civil society organisations in creating a Delhi based platform called the ‘Anti Nuclear Struggles Solidarity Forum’. The Forum organised a candle light vigil at the India gate and a march to the Indian Parliament on 25 March 2011. After the march the Forum submitted a memorandum to the Government of India demanding a moratorium on all proposed nuclear projects, independent review of existing facilities and a policy shift towards decentralised and safe renewable energy.

Focus spoke at the 3rd National Conference of the National Forum of Forest People and Forest Workers (NFFPFW) in Ranchi, Jharkhand from 28-29 March 2011 and participated in an international coal and energy workshop in Panjim, Goa from 30-31 March 2011.

On 18 April 2011, the Maharashtra police fired on protestors calling for a stop to the Jaitapur nuclear project, killing one person and seriously injuring 8 others. Focus was part of the groups that called for an emergency meeting in Delhi on 19 April 2011 to respond to the situation. A joint statement was released by the anti-nuclear struggles solidarity forum and a call for a protest on 21 April 2011 at Jantar Mantar in Delhi was issued. Follow up meetings of the Forum were held on 28 April and 14 May 2011 at the Indian Social Institute.

Focus engaged the Indian government with an analysis of the May interim report from the government's expert group on low carbon strategies to achieve inclusive growth. Focus was also invited to a two-day consultation on implementing the Coastal Regulation Zone held by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Focus helped draft a memorandum which was submitted to the Ministry.

On 15 June 2011, Focus, along with two other NGOs, was invited to the National Committee meeting of the National Fishworkers Forum in Chennai. Focus was asked to make an input on the challenges of climate change and the operation of International Financial Institutions on coastal communities and the Environment. In June Focus also planned a collaborative project with the Delhi Science Forum to study non-CO2 emissions with the perspective of exploring policy options for reducing them as a more effective, quicker and cheaper alternative to CO2 mitigation. The study began in December 2011 and should be completed in 2012.

### **CRZ, IFIs and climate.**

Focus took the lead in organising a two day meeting in Goa in July, hosted by the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF), on Climate Change, Coastal Regulation Zone, and projects of International Financial Institutions on the Indian coast. Also in July, Focus was invited to attend the All India Peoples Science Network's southern regional conference on climate in Hosur.

### **Sangharsh 2011.**

From 3-5 August 2011 various social movements in India organised a people's parliament/assembly called

'Sangharsh' at Jantar Mantar near the Indian Parliament house in Delhi. Focus has been involved with Sangharsh a platform initiated by NAPM in 2007. At its 2011 edition Focus helped in drafting briefing notes and memorandums on energy issues, especially nuclear energy. As a member of the Delhi Solidarity Group (DSG), Focus attended and contributed to various coordination meetings that were held in preparation for Sangharsh.

### **The Nyéléni newsletter on Fishery and Climate Change**

Focus did a short interview with the convenor of the Theeradesa Mahila Vedi (Coastal Women's Movement) in Kerala for the November 2011 edition of the Nyéléni newsletter.

### **Climate meetings**

Focus was invited to two key meetings at the Centre for Policy Research, an influential think tank in New Delhi, on climate finance allocation among developing countries (25 July) and on global energy governance (27 September). Focus also attended a meeting organised by Prayas Energy Group and Manthan Adhyan Kendra on 28 September in New Delhi on the implications of proposed thermal plants.

### **CDM case study**

Focus co-organised a one-day workshop on CDM in which several grassroots examples of the social and environmental costs of the CDM projects were shared. As part of the series of case studies on CDM, Focus is doing a case study of the under-construction Tata Mundra 4000 MW coal fired power plant in Mundra on the coast of Gujarat. A series of interviews were done with members of the Machimar Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti (Fishworkers Rights Struggle Committee) and a field visit was organised to the site in December 2011. A report and a short video will be produced early 2012.

### **Philippines**

The Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCI) continued to consolidate its campaign and movement building efforts in 2011. As part of the coordinating committee, Focus provided leadership support and was active in issue-based discussions. The network became actively engaged in the national process spearheaded by the Philippine Climate Change Commission (CCC) to develop the National Climate Change Action Plan



(NCCAP). The network consolidation efforts also moved ahead with an organisational assessment of the 2010 work and the consolidation of the 2011 campaign plan.

### **National Climate Change Action Plan**

The initial foray into direct engagement with the Climate Change Commission came by way of the network's participation in a January Technical Working Group meeting and feedback session on the Cancun outcomes. Following this, the network prepared for multi-sector NCAAP workshops, with Focus concentrating on mitigation issues.

The next step in the process will be the consolidation of the local plans. To prepare for the local planning process, PMCJ initiated several local discussions throughout the year aimed at increasing awareness on climate justice issues. Towards the end of the year, the network organized a climate caravan in several provinces where climate justice forums were organized in preparation for local planning next year.

### **ASEAN Peoples' Forum, Jakarta**

PMCJ sent a delegation to the ASEAN Peoples Forum in Jakarta (3-5 May) to participate in climate and environment related events including the workshop A search for Just Solutions to the Climate Crisis in ASEAN organised by Focus, Jubilee South, CSF on Climate Justice and Solidaritas Perempuan.

PMCJ also participated in a small meeting with campaign networks from Thailand and Indonesia on the campaign for a fourth pillar in ASEAN as well as the plans for the APF in Bali in October this year.

The network also participated in a Senate Technical Briefing on the World Bank and UN report on Natural Hazards and Disasters (February), and organised a mobilisation in front of World Bank Headquarters in Manila during its multi-stakeholder consultation on Climate Change (April).

### **The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)**

In August PMCJ met officers of CDM Watch to plan for a proposed Southeast Asia CDM workshop in Bangkok to be co-organized with Focus. PMCJ made suggestions on the program including making a presentation on CDM in the Philippines.

PMCJ sent a delegation to the CDM workshop in Bangkok which was held from 11-14 October. Focus prepared the CDM Case Study presentation for the Philippines which was presented by Erwin Quinones of LRC. The workshop concluded that the Clean

Development Mechanism has failed to reduce emissions through projects being implemented under the scheme that are producing more environmental harm, such as hydropower dams and waste to energy projects.

### **Energy**

In late June, PMCJ organized an energy forum on the sidelines of the ADB's Asia Clean Energy Forum, with speakers from ADB, World Resources Institute and Jubilee South- APMDD. The ADB's Aiming Zhou discussed the evolution of its energy policy; stressing the increasing investments in clean energy since 2003. Clean Energy investments now stand at US\$1.756 billion. Interestingly he also emphasized the ADB's push for carbon markets and CDM as important financing mechanisms. ADB has two carbon market-based financing facilities - the Asia Pacific Carbon Fund and the Future Carbon Fund - that figure prominently in the latest articulation of its energy policy (2009).

Related to this, PMCJ issued a press statement which landed in national broadsheets and television networks (online) criticizing the ADB's hypocrisy in organizing events like the clean energy forum while continuing to provide substantial support to dirty energy projects like coal fired power plants and calling for a global energy revolution that would push a new energy agenda that recognizes and addresses the climate crisis and effect a transition plan to a post-petrol world.

### **Climate Finance**

Two additional case studies on CDM projects in the Philippines were documented, and a video case study was also produced on a proposed climate solution with IFI involvement.

### **Thailand**

Focus has been instrumental in creating and maintaining a critical Thai coalition on climate justice, the Thai Working Group for Climate Justice (TCJ). Continuing from 2010, Focus on the Global South - Thailand programme together with TCJ maintained its campaign focus on the government's "National Master Plan on Climate Change", which concentrates on the redrafting process of the plan. At the same time, Focus on the Global South also convenes a research project under the title "Alternative Policy for Climate Justice in Thailand". Focus also continues to facilitate and strengthen the links between national groups and regional and international networks.

Together with TCJ, Focus influenced, to a considerable extent, the government responses to the climate crisis, and to a lesser extent, the energy crisis. This was evident in the campaign on the National Climate Master Plan which resulted in the redraft of the Master Plan and a

more participatory and transparent process.

Challenging market mechanisms has been the key element of the climate justice endeavour in Thailand. Although the alternative approaches remain at the proposal level, the market-led climate solutions have been undermined significantly especially among grassroots movements and increasing numbers of stakeholders.

### *National Master Plan on Climate Change*

The government of Thailand by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) started the drafting process of the National Master Plan on Climate Change in 2009. This plan was meant to lay out in detail on how Thailand will respond to climate change challenges on both mitigation and adaptation aspects in the next ten years, with attached budget. It was ready to be launched at the beginning of 2010, but was suspended when mounting resistances from NGOs and grassroots movements emerged. TCJ has been at the centre of the campaign to challenge the Master Plan from the beginning. There were two major problems regarding the Master Plan. First, the drafting process was conducted without public participation. Second, the solution implied in the draft plan was concentrating on the use of market mechanisms without any structural change, for example, no reference regarding energy and industrial reforms. In response to the civil society demand, ONEP agreed at the end of March 2010 to organise open public consultation in four different regions of the country with close collaboration with TCJ before submitting the Master Plan to the cabinet for endorsement. ONEP then broke the agreement by organising two consultations in the North and North East without informing TCJ or inviting any civil society groups (only government officials and selected private sector were present at these events). As a consequence, at the third consultation in the South, local citizen groups mobilised and organised direct action resulting in the cancellation of that particular event. Then citizen groups (now 31 from all over Thailand) together with TCJ followed up the action by coming to Bangkok to demand the abolition of the Master Plan and a redraft of a new plan. After negotiating with the government, finally at the beginning of 2011, the Prime Minister agreed and ordered the redraft of the Master Plan.

After the PM's decision, TCJ proposed to ONEP and the government a new public consultation procedure involving all sectors and concerned groups in the process. In May, with a change leadership in ONEP, two working groups (mitigation and adaptation groups) were tasked for redrafting the Master Plan, together with six consultations with grassroots movements in different regions of Thailand. In the consultation

process, TCJ engaged closely with ONEP in designing the programme, identifying participants, and producing the report. ONEP also invited TCJ to be on both working groups. TCJ, nonetheless, decided not to be a member but remain an observer of the working group. This is to keep a certain distance and maintain the flexibility for the campaign work. After six consultations which ended on 14 July, TCJ, with Focus taking the lead, continues to work closely with ONEP to ensure that the official consultation report which feeds in to the drafting process properly reflects the voices and concerns of the public. It is evident from the consultation that the participants were demanding genuine reform with a justice dimension. Moreover, market mechanisms were seen as inadequate, and there were demands in exploring alternative mechanisms. This is the first time ever that such a process has been conducted in Thailand in relation to climate change. The consultation report, thus, became the first document which reflects popular concerns and demands regarding state climate policies. Focus and TCJ took this opportunity to widely disseminate and popularise this document, which will also be available in English at the beginning of 2012. Nonetheless, due to the flood crisis which began in September 2011, the final draft of the master plan is still not ready. Currently, TCJ is monitoring the development closely and has been providing inputs for ONEP in finalising the draft.

### *Alternative Policy for Climate Justice in Thailand*

Under this project, Focus on the Global South together with partners groups organised three workshops from 3-5 April: "Carbon Trading – Genuine Solution to Climate Change?", "REDD: The Political Economy Perspective", and "Rights of Mother Earth: Revitalizing Natural Resource Struggle in Asia" (mentioned above).

A national conference on climate justice was also organised in Bangkok at the end of September 2011. Following this conference, it was documented that climate justice concepts and propositions were echoed in official government policy spaces with reference to the event. The reports will be produced as resource documents for capacity building and campaign purposes.

### *CDM case study report and video production*

A study report on the impact of the CDM at the community level with a special focus on the justice dimension is being conducted. A short video documentary clip (approximately five minutes) is under production.

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