

Asian Civil Society Forum (ACSF)

“Building UN/NGO Partnerships for Democratic Governance through MDGs”

**UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand
November 21 to 25 (Sunday to Thursday), 2004**

Inside this issue:

1. MDGs Report Update
2. Geneva based NGOs discuss “Cardoso report”
3. Special Seminar on UN-Civil Society Relations (Bangkok, Aug. 13)
4. ACSF 2nd Preparatory meeting
5. UNEP Contributes USD30,000 to ACSF
6. ACSF 2004 back-to-back meetings
7. Run-up to ACSF 2004

Attachments:

- Summary Report of NGOs’ Consultation on the Cardoso Report (Geneva, July 26)
- Invitation Brochure of Special Seminar on UN-Civil Society Relations (Bangkok, Aug. 13)
- Analysis of Third World Network (TWN) on “Cardoso Report”

MDGs Report Update

In Asia, the following seven countries; China, Bhutan, Nepal, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam have submitted the country report on MDGs as of Aug. 2004.

The regional report titled “Promoting the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific” was published by the UN ESCAP in May 2003.

These reports will be discussed along with NGO counter reports during the ACSF in November 2004.

- For country reports, visit <http://www.undp.org/mdg/countryreports.html>
- For regional reports, <http://www.unescap.org/publications/detail.asp?id=672>

Geneva based NGOs discuss “Cardoso Report”

Geneva, July 26: About 50 participants mainly from Geneva-based NGOs discussed the recently released report of the 2003 Bangkok Panel of Eminent Persons on UN-Civil Society Relations.

The discussion took place at a consultation meeting on the Panel, jointly convened by CONGO and NGLS (Non-Governmental Liaison Service).

Some critical views and analysis were highlighted at the meeting.

For details of the meeting, please see the attached summary report.

For full report of the Cardoso Panel visit <http://www.un.org/reform/panel.htm>

Special Seminar on UN-Civil Society Relations (Aug. 13)

The Special Seminar on the proposals of the UN High-level Panel (Cardoso Panel) will take place in Room A, UN ESCAP in Bangkok at 2-6 pm on August 13 (Friday), 2004.

The final report of the Panel contains 30 proposals, which are comprehensive in terms of their impact and implication for UN-NGO relations at the global and regional levels.

The Seminar is being organized as part of the preparation for ACSF 2004 in which UN-civil society relations will be addressed as one of the main general themes.

Those who cannot make it are kindly invited to send their comments and opinions which will be distributed during the Seminar in advance.

Those who do not have UN badges please contact Rashid Kang of Forum Asia for accreditation and UN pass

ACSF 2nd Preparatory meeting

The 2nd preparatory meeting for the ACSF 2004 will take place in the evening of Aug. 13 after the Special Seminar and/or the morning of Aug. 14.

The program structure and speakers will be the main agenda of the meeting.

UNEP Contributes USD 30,000 to ACSF

The UN Environmental Program (UNEP) has recently decided to contribute USD30,000 to the coming ACSF.

The financial support will be used to enable the participation of about 30 NGO representatives who are partners of the UNEP.

There will be a preparatory meeting during ACSF 2004 for the 6th Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) which will be held in Nairobi prior to the 24th annual session of Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GMEF) in February 2005.

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ACSF 2004 back-to-back meetings

NGO	Venue / Dates	Contents
Non-Violence International	Bangkok / Nov. 20	Regional Seminar on Arms Trade Treaties
Forum Asia	Bangkok / Nov. 26-30	UN Human Rights Advocacy Training
Pax Romana ICMICA	Nov. 26-30	Workshop on Christian Social Advocacy

Several NGOs will have their own meetings and programs before or after the ACSF to bring their members to ACSF in a cost-effective manner. Additional meetings will be added in the next issue.

Run-up to ACSF 2004

A list of meetings on issues related to 2004 ACSF .

Dates	Venue	Meetings
Jul. 26—Aug. 13	Geneva	56 th UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights www.unhchr.ch
Sept. 6-8	Hanoi	ASEM People's Forum http://www.tni.org/asem/index.htm
Sept. 8-10	New York	57 th Annual DPI/NGO Conference – MDGs http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/index.html
Sept. 11-13	Seoul	Pre-Conference NGO Forum
Sept. 14-17	Seoul	7 th International Conference of National Institutions www.icni.org
Sept. 27-29	Kathmandu	International Consultation on Caste-Based Discrimination www.idsn.org
Nov. 17-25	Bangkok	Third IUCN World Conservation Congress www.iucn.org
Nov. 20-21	Santiago	Informal APEC Leaders' Meeting www.apec2004.cl
Nov. 21-25	Bangkok	Asian Civil Society Forum (ACSF) 2004

The ACSF is an advocacy capacity-building programme for NGOs in Asia facilitated by the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with UN (CONGO) Working Group on Asia

The ACSF Newsletter is published occasionally to provide necessary information and to promote communication among participants.

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