AP-RCEM Interim Structure 2014-2015

5 Sub-regional Focal Points, 14 Constituency Focal Points

Advisory Group

Sub-regional Groups

- Pacific, North East Asia, Central Asia,
- South Asia, South East Asia

Constituency Groups

1. Women, 2. farmers, 3. forest dwellers, 4. children, youth and adolescents, 5. migrants, 6. trade unions and workers, 7. people living with and affected by HIV, 8. LGBTIQ, 9. ethnic people, 10. people affected by conflict and disasters, 11. small and medium enterprises, 12. science and technology, 13. persons with disabilities, 14. indigenous peoples, 15. older groups, 16. local authorities, 17. NGOs

Thematic Working Groups

People-Centered Process and Promoting Accountability: Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)

AP-RCEM is a civil society platform aimed to enable stronger cross constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Asia Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes in regional and global levels.

How to be a part of the RCEM and Why

Becoming a part of the RCEM is crucial in promoting democratic rights, advancing ownership over international agreements, advancing human rights and sustainable development. The platform was/is set up under the auspices of UN-ESCAP and seeks to engage with UN agencies and Member States on the Post-2015 as well as other development related issues/processes.

Why do we need a CSO engagement mechanism?

Civil society engagement with UN processes is critical in that it establishes normative standards, encourages people-centered processes and promotes accountability.

Particularly it’s critical in the inter-governmental processes which include claiming and promoting democratic rights, advancing ownership over international agreements, advancing human rights and sustainable development.

Since the very founding of the UN, the importance of civil society engagement was recognized and has been referenced in multiple UN documents.

“The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consulting with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the member of the United Nations concerned.”

Thousand of civil society organizations have accreditation with the UN Economic and Social Council and engage in various processes including sustainable development processes.

The Rio Earth Summit in 1992 produced ‘Agenda 21’ where 9 major groups were identified that would play a significant role in driving sustainable development. (Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, Farmers).

Civil society was organized to input into the implementing Commission – the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

While the major groups’ engagement mechanism effectively manages diversity and formalizes civil society participation, it could reduce the scope and role of CSO engagement with the UN system and centralise it to Northern-based organisations.

Critical messages could be diluted if we place business, industry in the same space.

Civil society engagement in regional processes has been sporadic and primarily thematic.

“We need to be more strategic and more involved.”

With the growing appreciation towards the importance of the Asia Pacific region, it is imperative that we strengthen civil society engagement across all levels and also increase regional perspectives at international levels.

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Join RCEM Constituency groups now by signing up at our platform: www.asiapacificrcem.org to start engaging with Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM). You will be added to the AP-RCEM list-serve: aprcem@asiapacificrcem.org and will be directed to the constituency focal point.

Put your local and national issues to the intergovernmental processes in the regional and global levels!

Your voices matter.

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Contact us

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Visit RCEM website: www.asiapacificrcem.org
Advancing the call for Development Justice

Since 2013, civil society in Asia and Pacific has called for a new development model, a model of Development Justice. Development Justice is a transformative framework that looks to reframe the current development model within the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to advance a more just, equitable and sustainable model of development justice. Development Justice requires: (1) economic justice, (2) social and gender justice, (3) environmental justice and (4) re-distributive justice. Development Justice is a paradigm that recognizes the importance of new partnerships, new systems to be developed. With the RCEM, civil society can better advance the collective call for development justice - an agenda that calls for five transformative shifts of redress—justice, economic justice, social and gender justice, environmental justice and accountability to peoples.

How we came together at the global and regional levels

At the Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development held in May 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand, representatives of civil society agreed to formally establish AP-RCEM and form a transitional committee that would help set up the RCEM. The committee was appointed to represent constituencies and sub-regions. What have we gained so far? From its formation in 2014, AP-RCEM has become a major regional platform for civil society organizations coming from various constituencies, and sub-regions. We have shown our presence and engaged in various forums on sustainable development, both regionally and globally. We made real efforts to elevate the opportunities and amplified the voices of all grassroots organizations and peoples’ movement, in order to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. We have also facilitated outreach and accessed resources from various constituencies, and sub-regions. We have set up our own CSD engagement mechanisms and have been working to amplify the voices of Asia Pacific CSOs - particularly in Asia Pacific and East Asia regions. We are hoping that these bottom-up initiatives of AP-RCEM could inspire the other regions to consolidate and articulate positions of CSOs in Asia Pacific regions.

The world we want.

DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE

Redistributive Justice

Economic Justice

Social and Gender Justice

Environmental Justice

Accountability to Peoples