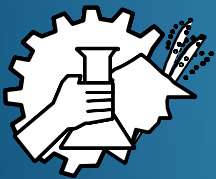


CSO Perspectives on Economic and Social Impacts of Environment in Asia-Pacific

Environment and the Access to Resources,
Incomes and Services

Asia Pacific CSO Forum on Sustainable
Development: Consolidating Peoples' Agenda
for Development Justice,
and other relevant CSO activities

Nouvo City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
17-18 May 2015



AGHAM – Advocates of Science and
Technology for the People

Grassroots access and control of resources, incomes and services are crucial in eradicating poverty, addressing inequalities, and more importantly, in resolving the climate crises.



Critique on the indicators of 2015 SDGs

Goals 1 and 2. End poverty and hunger. Achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture

UNEP says,

- environmental resources can be the major source of livelihood for the communities
- Growing population and change in the consumption trend affects the environment
- In the coastal ecosystems, fishery and aquatic resources has contributed to the reduction of national poverty
- In the terrestrial ecosystem (farming), improvement of water resource management and other agricultural technology can provide food sufficiency
- Agriculture contributes to green house gas emissions

Resources for Development

TABLE 1. SPECIES ENDEMIC TO THE PHILIPPINES

Taxonomic Group	Species	Endemic Species	Percent Endemism
Plants	9,253	6,091	65.8
Mammals	167	102	61.1
Birds	535	186	34.8
Reptiles	237	160	67.5
Amphibians	89	76	85.4
Freshwater Fishes	281	67	23.8

Source: Conservation International (2011)

Critique on the indicators of 2015 SDGs

In reality,

Depletion of environmental resources brought about by the extractive industries

- large-scale mining ex. Philex, Oceana Gold, Tampakan)
- monocrop plantation – ex. pineapple, banana, biofuel
- Reclamation – ex. Manila Bay reclamation, Laguna Lakeshore

“Tragedy of the commons” – resource control and ownership

Landgrabbing - conversion of prime agricultural lands to industrial, commercial and residential



Philex tailing storage breach is the biggest mine tailing spill in the Philippines disposing 20 million metric tons of mine tailings that rendered two important riverine systems biologically dead.



Environmental pollution caused by the operation of biofuel plant operated by GreenFuture Innovations, Inc. and ECOFUEL Land Development, Inc. joint venture corporation composed of Filipino, Japanese and Taiwanese companies.

Before mining operation



Current mining operation



Oceana Gold, a foreign mining company operating in New Zealand, Australia and the Philippines, left a massive devastation in the Philippine forest and farmland ecosystems and polluted water bodies with toxic heavy metals.

Agricultural Instability and Food Insecurity

- **7 out of 10** farmers are landless.
- **93%** of irrigated lowlands use agrochemical intensive HYVs.
- **304,078 hectares** lost to land-use conversion from 1991-2002.
- More than **1.5 million hectares** of land developed for agribusiness since 2005

Pollutive Energy

- **12** operating coal-fired power plants, 5 more in next 3 years
- **7.9%** annual growth rate of carbon emissions
- EPIRA privatized and deregulated energy & doubled power rates





Deepening Poverty

- 71.4% in a survey rated themselves as poor.
- Wage gap of P512 between living and minimum wage.
- The 2011 budget: P823.3 B to debt servicing, but only P207.2 B for education and P38.6 B for health care.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

UNEP says,

Sustainable water resource management and access to safe water and sanitation are the key to economic productivity and provide leverage for investment on health and education.

In reality,

Water becomes an expensive commodity – investment opportunities for Palisades Water Index, Dow Jones US Water Index, ISE-B&S Water Index, S&P 1500 Utilities Water Index
- Water privatization

What needs to be done?

- Mainstream in the SDGs full access and stewardship of resources to the farmers, fishfolks, women, and other marginalized sectors and the continuous lobbying and advocacy to the national government for the protection of national patrimony
- Stop massive exploitation and destruction of extractive industries
- Scrap globalization policies such as privatization, liberalization and deregulation
- Make science and technology serve the interest of the people



Existing environmental and social problems aggravated by global warming will persist until the plunder of the world for globalization's greed for profits end.