



Call for interest in co-organising a workshop, event or open space at Asia Europe People’s Forum 9

Background

The Asia-Europe People’s Forum (AEPF) will hold its 9th biennial People’s Forum on 16-19 October 2012 under the title **“People’s Solidarity against Poverty and for Sustainable Development: Challenging Unjust and Unequal Development, Building States of Citizens for Citizens”**.

AEPF9 will tackle four major themes or People’s Visions, which represent AEPF’s hopes for citizens of ASEM member countries and the communities they live in. These are:

- **Universal Social Protection and Access to Essential Services;**
- **Food Sovereignty and Sustainable Land and Natural Resource Management;**
- **Sustainable Energy Production and Use; and**
- **Just Work and Sustainable Livelihoods.**

Progress towards the realisation of these People’s Visions is at the heart of a way out of the multiple crises confronting people, states and institutions. The ecological, debt, financial and food crises, which have been caused and compounded by the policies and practices of many governments in both rich and poor countries and their approaches to regulation of business, have caused increasing social polarization between peoples and states. In Asia the crises are exacerbating poverty and inequality, already widespread before the present crises. In Europe the crises are creating indebtedness, joblessness and insecurity. We are increasingly experiencing ‘corporate capture’—multinational and national corporations structuring and determining our lives and livelihoods. The responses of citizens are often at local and national levels and to complement these, the AEPF is looking to encourage and strengthen cooperation and solidarity of people’s networks regionally, inter-regionally and globally.

AEPF9 will be an exciting series of interlinked dialogues, workshops, actions, policy debates and open spaces. We are launching a call for interest to co-organise a workshop, event or open space as part of the Forum.

Call for Interest – the essentials

1. Workshops, events or open spaces must be relevant to AEPF and supportive of the principles outlined in the AEPF Charter and contribute to discussions and reflections around the title of AEPF9 and the four themes:
 - Universal Social Protection and Access to Essential Services;
 - Food Sovereignty and Sustainable Land and Natural Resource Management;
 - Sustainable Energy Production and Use; and
 - Just Work and Sustainable Livelihoods.

2. The focus of the workshop, event or open space should contribute to increasing Asia-Europe understanding, analysis and information about an issue. It should be dealt with from an Asia-Europe angle, covering
 - i) A European perspective
 - ii) An Asian perspective
 - iii) The Asia-Europe dimension of the issue
3. The workshop, event or open space should be co-organised by
 - i) an AEPF organisation from Asia
 - ii) one AEPF organisation from Europe and
 - iii) one from the host country, Laos

Each of these three organisations should have nominated **link person** for the preparation and organisation of the workshop. These will form the Workshop, Event or Open Space Organising Group and they will develop the agenda, background documents and requests for other resource people and communicate them with the IOC/NOC AEPF Core Group.

4. Workshops, events or open spaces will run for a minimum of three hours and a maximum of four hours, to give ample time for presentations and discussions. There should be at least one speaker from Europe, one speaker from Asia and one speaker from Laos in the workshop. Presentations should be no more than fifteen minutes long. This is with the assumption that there is simultaneous interpretation. If there is no simultaneous interpretation the total time per speaker should be no more than twenty minutes. Each workshop, event or open space will have a moderator invited by the link people. S/he must ensure that the speakers keep to the workshop guidelines, enable discussion and exchange between the delegates/participants attending the workshop, event or open space and that the rapporteur delivers the report.
5. The workshop, event or open space should allow at least 3/4 of its time for discussion.
6. The workshop, event or open space should develop concrete proposal(s) directed at the relevant decision makers including ASEM but also the AEPF. These will be compiled by an agreed rapporteur and presented to the IOC/NOC AEPF People's Vision Group as soon after the end of the workshop as possible, and no later than the end of the AEPF9.
7. The chair/moderator of the workshop, event or open space has the responsibility to make sure that discussions are being carried out in an open and inclusive atmosphere.
8. The workshop, event or open space should draft a minimum of an A4 report afterwards which must be submitted to the IOC/NOC AEPF People's Vision Group no later than the end of the AEPF9.

Timetable

The final date for submission of interest is 15th July 2012. All requests will then be considered by the IOC/NOC at the IOC/NOC Core Group Meeting held before 31st July 2012. You will be informed of the results of their discussions by 7th August 2012. Where there a number of organisations showing interest there may be requests to work together to organise a joint workshop, event or open space. The NOC/IOC will make the final decision. Please note that no financial support is guaranteed by the AEPF9 organisers to bring speakers or cover any costs of a workshop, event or open space.

If you would like to express an interest in co-organising a workshop, event or open space please write to the following people, depending on your location:

AEPF9 Secretariat in Laos: Learning House for Development **Contact:** secretariat@aepf9.info

AEPF Focal point/secretariat in Asia: Institute for Popular Democracy

Contacts: Tina Ebro (cgebrogmail.com) or Maris dela Cruz (sirmallet@gmail.com)

AEPF Focal point in Europe: Transnational Institute **Contact:** Pietje Vervest (pietje.vervest@tni.org)

Information

AEPF Charter

<http://www.aepf.info/home/about-us/46-charter-of-the-asia-europe-peoples-forum-aepf.html>

AEPF9 Call to Participate

<http://www.aepf.info/dev/aepf9/register-now>

Expression of Interest format

1. Possible title
2. Focus of Workshop, Event or Open Space
3. Summary of topics for discussion
4. How does this workshop, event or open space contribute to discussions and reflections around the title of AEPF9 and the four themes
5. How does it take forward the AEPF Charter
6. Which organisations, networks, social movements could be potential co-organisers
7. What resources will you be able to contribute to the workshop, event or open space i.e. costs of venue, providing speakers and resource people, covering travel and accommodation costs for speakers, resource people, participants, preparing films, documentation etc. related to the workshop/event.
8. Name and contact details for link person for this expression of interest

Logistics background

1. Workshops, Events or Open Spaces will be held in a range of appropriate venues in the centre of Vientiane. They will be within walking distance of the main AEPF9 venue, the Lao Cultural Hall
2. Venues will range in size but able to hold between 50 and 100 people.
3. Co-organisers are expected to cover the costs of the venue
4. There will be simultaneous translation Lao/English available with booths and headphones planned for **some** venues.
5. There will be a full AEPF9 programme which a workshop, event or open space will be part.