



Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF) 1-6th October 2010

Building states *of* citizens *for* citizens – eroding corporate states

In October 2010 the 8th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM8) will take place in Belgium. Heads of State and Government from across Asia and Europe will meet to discuss their future priorities and plans. ASEM countries make up over 60% of the world's population yet the agenda and decisions at the meetings are unaccountable and dominated by economic and financial interests.

With ASEM8 coming to the heart of Europe and two years on from the onset of the current social, ecological and economic crisis, this is a unique opportunity to assess how responses to the crisis have affected the lives and livelihoods of citizens in Asia and Europe.

The Asia Europe People's Forum (AEPF) began in 1996 in Bangkok just before the first Asia Europe Meeting. AEPF is based on a common desire from people's organisations and networks across Asia and Europe to open up new venues of dialogue, cooperation and solidarity. AEPF has provided a space for social actors in each region to share and strengthen struggles and develop recommendations and campaigns for alternatives for both regions. AEPF strengthens network building at a national and regional level and implements cross-regional initiatives and campaigns.

AEPF8 (1-6th October 2010) will be a week of events in Brussels focussing on the influence of corporate power and building Asia Europe alternatives. The week will involve a series of interlinked spaces and opportunities for people from social movements to exchange ideas and alternatives from across Asia and Europe, including Belgium organisations and Brussels based European networks and organisations. It will include people's tribunals, teach-ins, workshops, actions and creative events.

AEPF8 provides a timely and critical opportunity to share and discuss real alternative responses to the current crisis and how we can reclaim decision making and practice in our States. It will focus on three main challenges:

1. How can we reclaim the rights and responsibilities of States in respect to their citizen's?
2. How can we decrease the web of political and economic support that has contributed to the increase in corporate power across Europe and Asia that has been central to the interlocking crises that we are experiencing today?
3. To articulate and share people centred alternatives in key areas of economic, environmental and social life that can be developed and supported by States and taken forward by their citizens.

Five key criteria for organising events are that:

- They focus on Asian and European perspectives and, wherever possible, on the linkages between Asia and Europe.
- They build on and enable greater interaction between groups, movements and networks that are already working on the issue.
- There is a potential for clear advocacy and campaigning targets. There is a commitment to engage with and challenge decision makers and power structures.
- There is a presentation for discussion and scrutiny of 'real' alternatives and on different aspects of corporate power. For example in relation to the: Finance sector – transforming regulation, control and purpose, Strengthening transparency and accountability, Climate Change and natural Resources, People centred public services, Social protection and security, Informal and formal sector and migrant worker's rights, Food security, Women's rights, and Peace and human security at local, national, regional and international levels.

AEPF8 is launching a *Call for Participation* to movements, groups, networks and organisations across Asia and Europe who are interested in participating in, co-organising and or supporting events during AEPF8.

How to be part of AEPF 8:

- For you and/or your organisation to join in with actions and events during AEPF8.
- For you and/or your organisation to co-organise events, and local and national activities in the run up to, and during AEPF8.
- For you and/or your organisation to contribute time, resources and funds to ensure AEPF8 is a success.

We are sending this Call to social movements and NGOs, trade unions, parliamentarians and citizens in Europe and Asia.

Join us in October 2010 to build a more just and equal Asia Europe.

One World Action (GB), Asia House (Germany), Finnish AEPF Committee, Transnational Institute (Netherlands), Centre Lebrét (France), Focus on the Global South (Thailand), MSN Malaysia, Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation, Institute for Popular Democracy (Philippines), Forum Asia (Thailand), Indonesian Partnership on Local Governance Initiatives

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