



Political party “**Laban ng Masa**” (Fight of the Masses) gathered in the streets of Cebu to express their disappointments in the present Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo **administration.**

Mayang Talido



Laban ng Masa call for the end of elite rule and the development of a transitional revolutionary government, organised a street protest to coincide with the conference.



Nadine Navarro



As the host country, local issues such as “cha-cha” or charter change and “con-ass” or constitutional assembly – **sought regional solidarity.**



The **media**
environment in Asia
remains as **unstable**
as its geology.



This young member of the women's peasant group *Kababayan-an sa Katipunan alang sa Kalambuan* (*Katipunan Women for Development*) or the *KKK*, is among **many youth** who definitely make one face of civil society.

Fists are raised in the air as a "leftist" song is played.



This Isis Manila photo essay project was led by Jasmine Nadua Trice; with Lea Aviles, Elvira Colobong, Nadine Navarro, Mayang Taldo, and Joralen Wenceslao.

WIA randomly interviewed participants of the 2nd ASEAN Civil Society Conference and asked them on their thoughts on **citizenship, democracy, and regionalism** – some of the big themes up for discussion in the **three-day conference**.

The working definition in our organisation is that democracy should be based on two principles – social justice and civil liberties. We also formulated the term “in relation to non-domination.” So democracy means that people have social justice and civil liberties in relation to non-domination.

That is the substance of democracy, people could talk with their own ideas.

Arief. Patramijaya Zen

Yayasan Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Indonesia (Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation)

I think democracy is all about sharing of experiences and problems, as part of the ASEAN. I think many people here have the ideas, some of which are difficult to implement. One important thing is to communicate. How to rely on network, the community, civil society groups, and community groups’ relationship with the government.

Juluanus Septer Manufandu

Forum Kerjasama LSM West Papua / Indonesia

With regard to the coup, in relation to democracy and regionalism, I think it is very important that we continue to network with our friends and share our stories. I think that we cannot really expect much from the ASEAN government because right after the coup dies not many critical statements [were] made by the ASEAN government. Maybe we can have some hope on Australian or European government since their democracy is quite developed and quite progressive. What we can rely on is the power of civil society especially regional civil society around ASEAN.

Pokpong Lawansiri

September 19 Network, Thailand

Our notion of citizenship has always been defined by the nation-state. I think citizenship is a very dynamic concept and citizenship now, as we are wanting to assert it, is an assertion of people’s rights. The problem with the modern concept of citizenship, that is the Western concept, is it is too individual-focused. But now we would like to assert citizenship in terms of communities — building communities and using universal human rights principles. One important thing is that we can have a discourse on Southeast Asia citizenship, which could lead to international solidarity.

Citizenship has always been defined by the government in the past. But this time, I think what we like to see is the kind of citizenship defined by the people.

Maya Bans-Cortina

KANLUNGAN Centre Foundation, Inc. (Centre for Migrant Workers), Philippines

Civil Society Commitment and Call to Action

- The challenge of building a regional community is complex. Equally challenging is the task of monitoring and exacting accountability from the national and regional institutions that claim to lead the building of this community on our behalf. We, participants of the ACSC II, in line with a shared understanding and analysis of trends, issues and concerns discussed in ACSC I and II, and guided by the different national and regional processes that we are involved in, commit to work together to build a people-centered and people-driven community in the ASEAN region based on the principles of human rights and dignity, human security, a just and lasting peace, participation and social dialogue, social and economic justice, cultural and ecological diversity, environmentally sustainable development, and gender equity.
- We resolve to continue to engage with and challenge the ASEAN at all levels, making use of all available spaces and opportunities to defend and advance the rights and interests of the marginalised and excluded people in all societies and communities in the region. In particular, we resolve to engage the official process of the ASEAN Charter.
- We resolve to strengthen our ranks and expand our initiative in solidarity and movement building, challenge ourselves to be more inclusive and participatory, and respond to issues of urgent concern in a timely manner.
- We resolve to continuously build and strengthen initiatives that will concretise the community building processes that we want to pursue. Towards this end, we will further our monitoring, analysis and challenge to regional issues and initiatives with the view of highlighting the people's agenda. We commit to build an ASEAN People's Charter that reflects the rights, interests and aspirations of all peoples in the ASEAN region.
- We demand that the ASEAN create effective mechanisms for transparency, accountability and people's participation. In particular, we demand for automatic civil society seats in all decision making processes of the ASEAN.
- We demand that ASEAN include automatic review clauses in all its initiatives and agreements internally and with partners outside of the region. This is to ensure that initiatives and agreements not responsive to or inimical to ASEAN people's welfare are recasted, while those upholding ASEAN people's interests are enhanced.
- We demand that the ASEAN guarantee the full participation of civil society in the ASEAN Charter drafting process, and that the final draft be subjected to national referendum.
- We resolve to meet again at the ACSC III in Singapore in 2007 in conjunction with the 13th ASEAN Summit, armed with new challenge, renewed energy and greater determination to advance the kind of regionalism we aspire for. We will continue to meet as ACSC parallel to all ASEAN Summits and assert that we are recognised as a broad platform for citizen participation in the official process, even as we persist in similar endeavours both outside and inside the ASEAN, on the streets, in the community, and in all forms of just struggle.

These are excerpts from the Statement of the 2nd ASEAN Civil Society Conference, 10-12 December 2006, Cebu, Philippines. To request for the full statement, please contact the South East Asian Committee for Advocacy (SEACA) <www.seaca.net> or Isis International-Manila <www.isiswomen.org>.