Workers Engagement on the SDGs in Asia Pacific

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AP RCEM and ESCAP

• ESCAP organizes the annual Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)
• As preparation for APFSD, ESCAP together with UN Environment support and co-organize with RCEM the Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development (CSO Forum)
How the CSO Forum relates to APFSD

• Using the International Labor Conference as reference:
  – CSO Forum to APFSD is like “workers meetings” or “committee meetings” prior to the ILC
  – CSO Forum is where joint positions are agreed on for delivery during APFSD
  – CSO Forum is where coordination happens on who speaks on what at the APFSD
  – CSO Forum is where we strategize and set our game plan for APFSD
How the CSO Forum relates to APFSD

• Unlike the ILC where we only deal with employers and government:
  – At the APFSD, “workers and trade unions” is just one of the nine (9) “major groups”
  – Employers are in the “private sector”
  – In the RCEM, there are 17 constituencies, including us
  – Together with other CSOs, we are always “last to speak” after governments, UN agencies and Multilateral institutions
What RCEM does in Preparation for CSO Forum and APFSD

- Influence APFSD agenda
- Set the agenda for CSO Forum based on APFSD theme/featured SDG
- Call for participants (more openings this year)
- Screen applications with ESCAP
- Approve applications
  - with funding
  - without funding
- Manage logistical and admin CSO Forum
What do we do at the CSO Forum

• Manage the Forum
• Speak at sessions (plenary and parallel)
• Facilitate
• Take part in “working groups” of RCEM
• Give inputs/ comment on the common and sectoral statements
• Network with civil society and UN
What do we do at the APFSD

• Organize, manage, speak, facilitate sessions
• Organize, manage booths (pav of partnerships)
• Manage assignment of “interventions”
• Give inputs/ comment on the statements
• Network with civil society, UN, government
• Dialogue with UN agencies, government
• Evaluate APFSD as CSOs
RCEM’s work other than APFSD

• Regional Knowledge Sharing Conferences with UNDP (Q3 2017)
• Continue work as “working groups”
Recommendations to TUDCN-AP/ ITUC-AP

• Apply for participation in the coming APFSD
  – Submit online application no later than 11 Feb
    (inks will be sent, together with announcements)
  – Make a strong case for your participation:
    • Introduce your union and personal engagements
    • SDG expertise; attendance in SDG related meetings, including ILO processes
  – Use ECOSOC accreditation of ITUC or ILO your own ILO consultative status
  – Give accurate contact info for verification purposes
Recommendations to TUDCN-AP/ ITUC-AP

• Actively comment, give inputs to our listserve/googlegroup
• Sponsor a session at CSO Forum and/ or APFSD Parallel Session
• Sponsor a booth
• Prepare interventions for CSO Forum and APFSD
• Work with RCEM CSOs at the national/subregional levels
• Create a “core group” for APFSD and RCEM