

At a time when neoliberal globalization ravages the world, when the system cannot deliver even the most fundamental prerequisites for dignified life, resistance based on popular participation to create a better world for humanity, is inevitable. Movements arise at local and national levels to protect the interests of the people and to work for social change. New forms of organizations based on democratic structures that enable popular participation emerge to retake power over the decision making that affects our lives and communities.

To contribute to these initiatives, an international gathering will be held in Manila on January 30-31. This is a continuation of an International Conference on Participatory Democracy held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 2004 and a Latin American Conference on Participatory Democracy held in Caracas, Venezuela, in 2005.

For more details and inquiries please contact:

Conference Secretariat

c/o Transform Asia Gender and Labor Institute
25 Calderon St., Brgy. Marilag, Quezon City, Philippines
Email: transform.asia@yahoo.com Telefax: (02) 995-8579



Asian Conference on Participatory Democracy and Alternative Forms of Popular Power

College of Social Work and Community Development
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
January 30-31, 2007

Organized by:

***Laban ng Masa (Philippines),
Transform Asia, &
Left International Forum (Sweden)***

Sponsored by: ***Focus on the Global South***

Participating Organizations:

Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Alab-Katipunan, Akbayan, Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, Makabayan, Lupa, PKMM, Youth for Nationalism and Democracy, Assart, Kasama-Pilipinas, FilDem, Sanlakas, Bisig, Resource Center for People's Development, Freedom from Debt Coalition, Confredem, Partido ng Manggagawa, Anak Mindanao, Bangsa Moro People's Forum, Assalam, Kongreso sa Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lunsod, Aniban ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura, Kilusang Mangingisda, Women & Gender Institute, Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralita sa Kanayunan, Pandayan para sa Sosyalistang Pilipinas, Padayon, and others.

January 30/Tuesday

Registration Starts at 8:30 am

Opening Talk *The Struggle for Democracy
in the Philippines Today*
Bulwagang Tandang Sora, 9:00-10:00 am
Emcee: **Rep. Risa Hontiveros**
Akabayang Partylist

Speaker: **Dr. Francisco Nemenzo**
Laban ng Masa

Introduction of the Conference Agenda
by **Sonny Melencio**, Transform Asia

1st Plenary *The Global Justice Movement
and Imperialism Today*
Bulwagang Tandang Sora, 10:00-1:00 pm
Facilitator: **Wilson Fortaleza**, Sanlakas

Is the global justice movement becoming the “other pole” challenging the imperialist hegemony? This panel of speakers will describe and assess the importance of social movements, popular uprisings, and the link between the local and the global movements in the struggle against imperialism today. The panel also aims to set an international context for the Conference discussions.

International Speakers:

Dr. Walden Bello,
Focus on the Global South
Mohananani Rasia,
Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM)
Naresh Jamatia,
Ganamukti Parishad (GMP), India
A Comrade from Nepal
(from Communist Party of Nepal
-United Marxist-Leninist)*

Philippine Panel:

Lidy Nacpil, *Jubilee South**
Frank Pascual, *RCPD*
Gigi Francisco, *WAGI*
Geronimo Pasetes, *KPD*

Lunch Break 1:00-2:00 pm

**Main Session
& Workshops** 2:00-4:30 pm

Main Session

Socialism and Democracy

Bulwagang Tandang Sora Hall

Facilitator: **Tina Ebro**, *Asia Coordinator,
Asia-Europe Peoples' Forum*

Socialism and democracy has been a much debated topic, especially since the collapse of the former socialist, eastern-European countries. This panel will look at concrete experiences of participatory people's power in Cuba and Vietnam and the development of participatory budgets, local planning councils and autonomous villages in Brazil, Venezuela and Mexico.

International Speakers:

H.E. Jorge Jimenez,
*Ambassador
Republic of Cuba*
H.E. Manuel Perez Iturbe,
*Charge d'Affairs
Bolivarian Republic of
Venezuela*
**Bernarda Herrera or
Josefina Guaramato**,
Venezuela
Amerika Vera Zabala,
VIF, Sweden
**A comrade from
Vietnam Women's Union**

Philippine Panel:

Reihana Mohideen,
Laban ng Masa
Randy David, *Bisig*
Risa Hontiveros,
Akbayan Partylist
Milet Morante, *KPD*

Workshop 1***Movements in the Imperialist Countries***

Room 204

Facilitator: **Tessa Agravante**, *Institute for Popular Democracy*

What are some of the key challenges facing the left and progressive movements struggling inside the imperialist countries? This panel attempts to introduce the Philippine audience to the particular challenges and problems faced by movements in the industrialized countries and their liberal, representative democracy.

Speakers:**Eva Bjorklund**,*VIF, Sweden***Sue Bolton**,*Democratic Socialist
Perspective, Australia***A comrade***from Izquierda Unida, Spain***Workshop 2*****Right to Self-Determination of Oppressed Nations
and the Indigenous Struggles***

Room 206

Facilitator: **Mitch Licudine**, *Sanlakas*

Despite the rhetoric about a truly “globalised” world, the “national question” still persistently asserts itself, with the struggles of oppressed nationalities and indigenous peoples having a major impact on the political landscape of several nations. This panel of speakers will describe the scope of some of these struggles and their role in the development of democratic, participatory practices and processes in their respective nations.

Speakers:**Naresh Jamatia**, *India***Cris Gaerlan**, *Anak-Mindanao***Dr. Abdurahman Amin**,*Bangsa Moro People’s Forum***Jolly Lais**, *Assalam***A comrade***from Izquierda Unida, Spain***A comrade***from Workers’ Democracy,
Thailand**

Workshop 3

The Left in Parliament: From Boycott to Intervention

Room 203

Facilitator: **Edwin Chavez, Bisig**

Intervention in parliament, electoral participation or parliamentary struggle has become one major arena for the Left in its struggle for social change. This panel of speakers, with concrete experience on parliamentary intervention, will talk about the character, direction and perspective of the Left's work in parliament, also vis-a-vis the growing role of the the parliament of the streets.

Speakers:

A comrade

CPN-UML, Nepal

Etta Rosales, Akbayan

Rene Magtubo,

Partido ng Manggagawa

Mujib Hataman,

Anak-Mindanao

2nd Plenary

Building Alliances: The Way Forward

Bulwagang Tandang Sora, 4:30-6:30pm

Facilitator: **Naty Bernardino, Wagi**

“Alliance building” – to unite the opposition to the policies and attacks of the ruling elite on people’s lives and living conditions – has emerged as a necessary and even key component of developing the movements in several countries. This panel will look at some of the international experiences in uniting the opposition forces against various forms of elite rule.

Speakers:

Dita Sari,

Partai Rakyat Demokratik, Indonesia

Sue Bolton,

Democratic Socialist Party, Australia

Princess Nemenzo,

Freedom from Debt Coalition

A comrade from *Izquierda Unida, Spain*

Panel:

Manjet Lopez, Sanlakas

Ronald Llamas, Akbayan

Video Showing **Youth Revolt: Thailand,
Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal**
Bulwagang Tandang Sora, 6:30-9:00 pm

Selected videos to highlight the role of the youth and the student movement in the revolts that swept Thailand and the Philippines in the 1970s, Indonesia in the 1980s, and Nepal during this year.

January 31/Wednesday

3rd Plenary **People’s Power in Asia:
Lessons & Prospects**
Bulwagang Tandang Sora, 10:00 -1:00 pm
Facilitator: **Milo Tanchuling, FDC**

“People’s Power” or deep and extensive mass upsurges have been key to breaking the hold of dictatorships and elite rule in several countries. This panel attempts to compare three experiences in the Asian region: the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship and subsequent “people’s power” experiences in the Philippines; the movement that overthrew Subarto and its aftermath; and most recently, the people’s upsurge in Nepal that broke the back of the dictatorial monarchy in that country. Why has elite rule persisted in the Philippines and Indonesia? What are the prospects in Nepal? What are some of the common lessons learned?

Speakers:

Sonny Melencio,
Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino
Dita Sari, Partai Rakyat Demokratik, Indonesia
A comrade from Nepal*
*(Communist Party of Nepal
-United Marxist-Leninist)*

People's Power in Asia: Lessons & Prospects

Panel:

Francisco Nemenzo, *Laban ng Masa*

Joel Rocamora,

Institute for Popular Democracy

Gina dela Cruz, *Alab-Katipunan*

Wilson Fortaleza, *Sanlakas*

Bagi Bagadiong, *KPD*

Lunch Break 1:00-2:00 pm

**Main Session
& Workshops** 2:00-4:30 pm

Main Session

Capitalism in Agriculture?

Building The Rural Movement

Bulwagang Tandang Sora

Facilitator: **Steve Quiambao**, *Padayon*

What is the level of capitalist development in agriculture, in the rural areas? What is its importance vis-a-vis the Left's strategy for change? This panel of speakers continues the debates on the mode of production in the country and today's strategy of social change.

Speakers:

Ric Reyes, *Padayon*

Ian Rivera, *Kalayaan!*

Rustico Cutanda,

KPMK-Alab Katipunan

Louie de Vera, *KPD*

Tony Raymundo, *RCPD*

From La Via Campesina

Reactors:

Vic Fave, *Pandayan*

Evangeline Mendoza,

Unorka

Eduardo Landayan,

Confredem

Workshop 1

Class-Struggle Unionism, Social Movement Unionism: Towards A New Perspective for the Trade Union Movement

Room 204

Facilitator: **Gerry Arances**, *Transform Asia*

The workshop will discuss the impact of neoliberal globalization on the plight and struggles of the working class worldwide, and the need to develop a viable strategy to confront the capitalist onslaught and defeat the neoliberal program.

Speakers:

Umesh Chandra Upadhyaya

GEFONT, Nepal

Leody de Guzman, *BMP*

Pete Pinlac, *Makabayan*

Dave Diwa,

KPMP-Alab-Katipunan

Padjoe Valdenor, *Liga*

Manggagawa

A comrade from APL

Workshop 2

The International Women's Movements: Lessons and Prospects

Room 206

Facilitator: **Michelle Canos**, *BMP-Kababaihan*

The workshop will discuss various experiences and lessons on the state and struggles of the women's movements worldwide and its impact in Asia.

International Speakers:

Eva Bjorklund, *VIF, Sweden*

Ban Thi Ba, Ha Giang

Women's Union, Vietnam

Bernarda Herrera or

Josefina Guaramato,

Venezuela

Sue Bolton, *DSP, Australia*

Philippine panel:

Mercy Fabros,

Welga ng Kababaihan

Aleli Marcelino, *Sarilaya*

Mel Laurinaria, *Kaisaka*

Judy Miranda, *PM*

<p>Workshop 3 <i>The Urban Poor: New Phenomenon, Developing Struggles</i> Room 102 Facilitator: A comrade from <i>National Urban Poor Coalition</i></p>	
<p><i>The workshop will discuss the development of the new movement based on the phenomenon of the explosion of urban poor population and their developing struggles.</i></p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>A comrade from Venezuela Egay Buenaventura, <i>Kasama-Pilipinas</i> Edwin Guarin, <i>Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralita</i> Von Mesina, FilDem Jess del Prado, LUPA</p>
<p>Workshop 4 <i>The Impacts of Imperialist Globalization to the Fisheries Sector and the Emergence of the Artisanal Fisherfolk Movement</i> Room 105 Facilitator: Daniel Castaneda, Kilusang Mangingisda</p>	
<p><i>Historically, the fisherfolk movement is an adjunct of the peasant movement as their struggles are closely related to the issues confronting the agricultural sector. However, the magnitude of imperialist globalization led to the emergence of an independent movement of millions of poor fishers in developing countries worldwide. In this period, defending and upholding the rights and welfare of artisanal fisherfolk worldwide becomes evidently crucial to the survival of humanity.</i></p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Bonifacio Federizo <i>Kilusang Mangingisda</i> Pablo Rosales <i>Kilusang Mangingisda</i> Comrade from South East Asia <i>Artisanal Fisherfolk Movement (SEA-FM)</i> Comrade from La Via Campesina</p> <p>Reactor:</p> <p>Nestor Diego PKSK</p>

Closing Plenary *Building the New Anti-Capitalist
Global Movement*

Bulwagang Tandang Sora, 4:00-6:00 pm

Emcee: **Val Vibal, AMA**

Speakers:

Reihana Mohideen, *Laban ng Masa*

A comrade from VIF, *Sweden*

Naresh Jamatia, *GMP, India*

Mohananani Rasia, *PSM, Malaysia*

Dita Sari, *PRD, Indonesia*

A comrade from CPN-UML, *Nepal*

A comrade from Venezuela

Solidarity Night

*An Evening of Music
and Cultural Presentation*

Bulwagang Tandang Sora, 6:00-9:00 pm

Organizer: Mar Mercado with Teatro Pabrika,
Zone One Band, Teatrang Bayan, Einstein
Shakra, etc.*

*Note: All * are to be confirmed*

International Guests

VIETNAM

Ban Thi Ba is the vice president of Ha Giang Women's Union in Vietnam, and the head of its project management. The Women's Union aims to eliminate illiteracy for ethnic women minority and to enhance the capacity of its women members.

Nguyen Thi Le Hang is the program officer of Vietnam Women's Union's International Relations Department. She is in charge of its European Desk and a coordinator of development projects.

SWEDEN

America Vera-Zavala is the author of the book "Participatory Democracy" and is with the Left International Forum (LIF).

Anita Persson is the chairperson of the Left International Forum and the Center for Marxist Studies.

Ann Margrethe Liv is a group leader for the Left Party in the municipal council and a member of the Party board.

Camilla Sköld Jansson is the vice president of the Left Party, a former member of the parliament, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Party.

Eva Björklund is a board member of the Left Party and former president of Swedish-Cuban Association.

Johan Sommansson is the secretary of the Left International Forum.

Jonas Lindberg is the international secretary of the Young Left in Sweden.

INDONESIA

Dita Indah Sari is the chairperson of the Partai Rakyat Demokratik (People's Democratic Party) and one of the founding leaders of Papernas. She is also the head of the militant labor federation FNPBI.

INDIA

Naresh Jamatia is a former general secretary of Tribal Youth Federation and current joint secretary of Ganamukti Parishad (GMP). GMP is a movement politically affiliated with the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in the Left front-ruled state of Tripura. GMP works amongst the adivasi, tribal, peoples of that state.

International Guests

MALAYSIA

Mohanarani Rasiah is a Central Committee member of Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM). She has been involved in grassroots organizing among plantation workers and with the urban pioneers since the 1980s. She has extensive involvement with communities facing eviction, specifically the urban pioneers and farmers in Ipoh.

NEPAL

Umesh Chandra Upadhyaya is the Deputy Secretary General of the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (Gefont).

AUSTRALIA

Sue Bolton is a central council member of the Socialist Alliance, and is also a leader of the Democratic Socialist Perspective within the Alliance.

VENEZUELA

Bernarda Herrera is an educator and coordinator of the programs for sociopolitical education mission Simon Rodriguez and a functionary of the department for planning and budget of the municipality of Caracas .

Josefina Guaramato is a political activist and counselor for the social and economic programs of the municipality of Caracas .

Manuel Perez Iturbe is the charge d'affairs of the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Manila.

CUBA

Jorge Jimenez is the ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Manila.

SPAIN

To be announced

THAILAND

To be announced

Philippine Panelists and Speakers

Francisco Nemenzo, *chairperson, Laban ng Masa*
Walden Bello, *executive director, Focus on the Global South*
Lidy Nacpil, *executive director, Jubilee South*
Gigi Francisco, *executive director, Women & Gender Institute*
Sonny Melencio, *Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino*
Wilson Fortaleza, *president, Sanlakas*
Frank Pascual, *executive director, RCPD*
Geronimo Pasetes, *ED officer, Kilusan sa Pambansang Demokrasya*
Reihana Mohideen, *head of the secretariat, Laban ng Masa*
Randy David, *Bisig*
Risa Hontiveros, *representative at Philippine Congress, Akbayan*
Milet Morante, *general secretary, KPD*
Cris Gaerlan, *Anak-Mindanao*
Abdurahman Amin, *Bangsa Moro People's Forum*
Jolly Lais, *general secretary, Assalam*
Etta Rosales, *representative at Philippine Congress, Akbayan*
Rene Magtubo, *representative at Philippine Congress, PM*
Mujib Hataman, *representative at Philippine Congress, Anak-Mindanao*
Princess Nemenzo, *president, Freedom from Debt Coalition*
Manjet Lopez, *general secretary, Sanlakas*
Ronald Llamas, *president, Akbayan*
Joel Rocaroma, *chairperson, Akbayan*
Gina dela Cruz, *general secretary, Alab-Katipunan*
Jose Bagadiong, *deputy general secretary, KPD*
Ric Reyes, *Padayon*
Ian Rivera, *secretary general, Kalayaan!*
Rustico Cutanda, *national council member, KPMK*
Louie de Vera, *education officer, KPD*
Tony Raymundo, *RCPD*
Leody de Guzman, *president, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino*
Josua Mata, *general secretary, Alliance of Progressive Labor*
Pete Pinlac, *chairperson, KPD*
Dave Diwa, *Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawa sa Pilipinas*
Egay Buenaventura, *Kasama-Pilipinas*
Edwin Guarin, *Kongreso sa Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod (KPML)*
Von Mesina, *secretary general, Filipino Democratic Movement*
Judy Miranda, *general secretary, Partido ng Manggagawa*
Mercy Fabros, *Welga ng Kababaihan*
Mel Laurinaria, *Kaisaka*
Aleli Marcelino, *Sarilaya*
Bonifacio Federizo, *Kilusang Mangingisda*
Pablo Rosales, *Kilusang Mangingisda*
Others (our apology for those who will be joining in as panelists and speakers after the publication of this brochure)