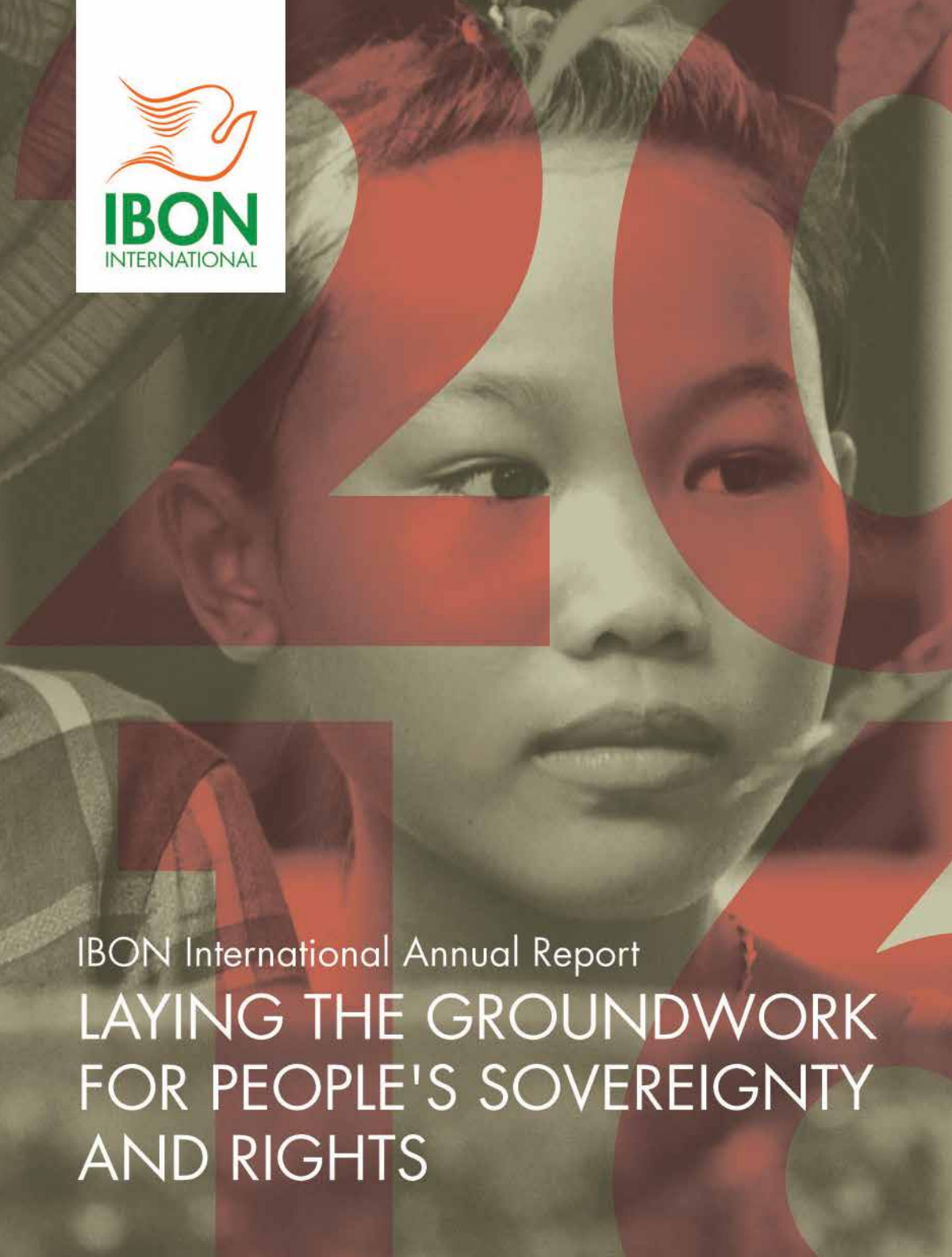

IBON International Annual Report

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR PEOPLE'S SOVEREIGNTY AND RIGHTS

Laying the Groundwork for People's Sovereignty and Rights

IBON International Annual Report 2016

IBON INTERNATIONAL

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Message of the IBON International Director

2016 is certainly an important year for IBON International as we began to implement our new Strategic Plan.

We reaffirmed the need to start with people's exercise of sovereignty and rights, as an important step towards our goal of social transformation. We began working with our refined program areas in line with the urgent issues facing the Global South today: development finance/PPPs, climate justice, trade and investment, and rights-based democracy.

To address the urgency of addressing people's concerns around trade and investment, we helped launch a new campaign initiative, the People Over Profit (POP) network. The campaign network has already started research, capacity building and advocacy work on the emerging free trade and investment agreements around the world and in particular on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in Asia and the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in Africa.

We also successfully conducted major activities, such as the International Conference on People's Rights in the Philippines (ICPRP) which we co-organized in July, on the 40th Anniversary of the Algiers Declaration. This conference allowed us, together with our partners – both broad formations and people's organizations – to advance the importance of people's rights in the midst of global crisis.

We also remained steadfast in raising peoples' issues as we engaged various global processes this 2016. We successfully participated in the 1st Financing for Development (FfD) Forum in New York, from April 18 to 20; the 5th Biennial High-Level Meeting of the Development Co-operation Forum (DCF) also held in New York, from July 21 to 22; the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Marrakech from November 15 to 18; and the 2nd High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership

for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in Nairobi, from November 28 to December 1, among others.

Aside from pursuing our work along the trajectory of our new framework on democracy and people's rights, we were also able to sustain the activities of our regional offices in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

Finally, IBON International introduced a refined, vibrant logo, which also serves to mark the first year of our new Strategic Plan. We retained our main icon – a bird in flight – designed in 1979 as we affirm our commitment to support the struggles of social movements and CSOs towards a world free from inequality, oppression and strife. Without a doubt, we will continue in the years to come with the same vision in mind.

In achieving all these milestones for 2016, we acknowledge and extend our gratitude to the active role of our staff, networks and partners around the world. In continuing our work in 2017 and beyond, concerted action will be of paramount importance to achieve our mission and goals.

Antonio Tujan Jr.
Director, IBON International

John Englart

About IBON International

We are a Southern-based service institution with an international character and scope of work. Our defined service role encompasses a broad range of capacity development functions, and is directed towards social movements and civil society constituencies in all regions of the world especially in the Global South.

Our promotion of capacity development is in the context of our fundamental advocacy of social justice and transformation, with a focus on building and sharing knowledge through research, education and information, and on international networking and partnership for capacity development.

IBON International strengthens links between local campaigns and advocacies to international initiatives. At the national and sub-national levels, we bring development issues from the international arena in a way that people's organisations and social movements can engage with them. At the regional and international levels, IBON International organises and co-sponsors parallel and alternative people's organisations and civil society initiatives.

We provide a venue for people's organisations and civil society organisations to express and build consensus around their concerns and demands, engage official processes meaningfully and forge cooperation for strengthened campaigns.

We trace our roots in 1978 during the dark days of martial law in the Philippines through IBON Foundation, as an alternative source of social and economic information. International work was initially taken on in the context of generating support for Philippine issues and struggles. Over time, allies outside of the country saw the importance of sharing the knowledge and skills through capacity development work, partnerships, and networking. This has led to exponential growth of its international work which necessitated establishing a separate, distinct, but closely coordinated, organisation as IBON International.

Vision and Mission

IBON International shares the aspirations of the peoples' struggles all over the world: a society and world of prosperity and democracy, that are free from war and strife, inequality, bondage and oppression. This expansive vision has long framed IBON International's mission of capacity development of people's movements for rights and democracy.

The vision is reflected in our overarching goal, which is to contribute to building global mass movements of oppressed and marginalised peoples to challenge neoliberal globalisation, war and all forms of oppression, and to advance people's individual and collective rights, democracy, social justice and equality, ecological sustainability and liberation.

As part of the Strategic Review and Planning process in 2015 that placed Rights-based Democracy/People-Powered Democracy (RBD/PPD) as central in our framework, our re-articulated mission is to develop knowledge and capacities with people and their organisations to exercise and claim their economic, political, social, and cultural rights, and meaningfully engage with other actors for the realisation of a rights-based democracy.

2016:

People's Assertion of Rights amidst a Lingering Crisis

In 2016, both the Global North and South saw what could be shifts in the world order, while age-old ills confronted the people: unemployment, forced migrations, hunger, militarization and corporate abuse of natural resources. Global poverty remains, along with a widening gap between the so-called developed and developing countries, or between the Global North and the Global South.

Simon Jennings

Slow economic recovery amid widening gaps

Seven years since the 2009 recession, global economic growth for 2016 remains dismally slow. This "post-recession" recovery is seen in slow rates of growth in international trade, with the UN seeing 2016 as having third lowest in 30 years and slowest since 2009, and also in the decreased economic growth both for developed and developing economies.[1]

The same UN report also see the shifting political and policy situations of the United States and of Europe — with the 2016 election and the exit of Britain from the European Union, respectively — as continuing barriers in the recovery of developed economies.

Among the so-called BRICS countries, seen as potentially rising economies, there is a persisting rate of slow — and even decreasing — economic growth. In 2016, rates of growth decreased for China and South Africa; and actually were in the negative for Brazil and Russia. India was the only BRICS country with increased rate of growth, from 7.3% in 2015 to 7.6% in 2016.

The UN also saw a slowdown of growth for developing countries. Meanwhile, the prospect of meeting the UN target of at least 7% economic growth for least-developed countries is still uncertain, given the mere 4.5% growth rate for these countries in 2016.

The Global South in general was also marked with a larger number of unemployed for 2016[2]: 84.4 million (4.2% rate of unemployment) for Asia Pacific; 25.1 million (8.1%) for LAC; and 37.1 million (8%) for Africa, compared to 9.4 million (5.1%) in North America and 20.2 million (9.3%) for France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom combined.

These decreases all over the world can be seen as pointing to a continued crisis of global monopoly capitalism. The economic benefits, however, continue to be largely confined to transnational corporations from developed countries:

1 UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, et al. World Economic Situation and Prospects 2017. New York: United Nations. un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/2017wesp_full_en.pdf

2 International Labour Organization. World Employment Social Outlook: Trends 2017. Geneva: ILO. ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_541211.pdf

according to Oxfam, the 10 largest global corporations when taken together have higher revenue than that of the governments of the world's 180 countries during 2015 to 2016. On the other hand, the share of wealth of the poorest 50% of the world population has sunk further to 0.2%, from an already low 0.7% share of the global wealth.[3]

How the economic elite hides vast amounts of wealth from government scrutiny was also revealed in a mass leak of offshore account documents in April, dubbed the "Panama papers." Corporate giants from the United States have an estimated USD 1.4 trillion in these tax havens, allowing reduced costs and more profits.[4]

Nevertheless, monopoly capital – as it attempts to expand via neoliberal globalization -- still needs additional sources of cheap labour, and markets for its surplus capital and goods, to fuel further capital accumulation. To do this after the successes of people's movements in derailing the WTO's expansion, the corporate agenda are being pushed in regional free trade agreements which forward similar trade and investment liberalization rules.

On top of these, major economic and political powers such as the United States and its allies continued to interfere in the affairs of other sovereign countries, which resulted to violations of peoples' rights, security crises, and further disabling these countries' economic development. Syria's industrial city of Aleppo was turned into rubble in December, which caused deaths, displacement of the people from the city, and destroyed the textile manufacturing and other industries.

2016 also pointed to a worsening of the climate crisis – which already disproportionately affects the poor and marginalized, especially those in agricultural communities. Developed countries and transnational corporations, meanwhile, tried to evade their responsibility to mitigate the climate crisis, despite being most responsible for its causes through their historically extractive and high-emission economic activity. Scientists reported that 2016 was 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels, which is perilously close to the 1.5°C limit of the Paris Climate Agreement adopted in 2015.

3 Oxfam. An Economy for the 99%. https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bp-economy-for-99-percent-160117-en.pdf

4 Davies, Rob. 2016. "US corporations have $1.4tn hidden in tax havens, claims Oxfam report." The Guardian, April 14. theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/14/us-corporations-14-trillion-hidden-tax-havens-oxfam

UNCTAD

The response of global processes

Given these issues, global institutions mandated to deal with issues related to militarism and war, aid and development cooperation, climate change, and trade, attempted to offer their responses.

To respond to the climate problem, the new climate deal — the Paris Agreement — came early into force in November. The 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22), held also in November, became an "interpretation battle" over the implications and the implementation of this climate deal. Fault lines between developed and developing countries, around reducing emissions, adapting to climate change impacts, and financing climate action will still be fleshed out.

In addressing trade and development, the 14th Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV) was held in July. Among the results included affirmations of the UNCTAD in addressing the link between trade, development, and finance supposedly in the interests of developing countries, while at the same time subduing real issues in private-sector led development and public-private partnerships as mere "policy challenges.[5]"

5 UN Conference on Trade and Development. 2016. From decision to action: Moving towards an inclusive

In late 2016, the 15-country United Nations Security Council decided upon a course of action regarding the crisis in Aleppo, and Syria in general. Russia and China vetoed the December 2016 proposal for a ceasefire, citing procedural issues in deciding upon the proposal.

Also in response to the emerging conflicts in countries such as Syria, the OECD in February, after lobbying by countries such as the United Kingdom, initiated changes regarding its definitions of what counts as official development assistance[6] (or development aid). In this redefinition, security issues were framed as development problems, and the OECD opened foreign aid to be allocated for purposes of "countering violent extremism."[7]

On the other hand, in the area of development finance, the inaugural Financing for Development Forum of the UN Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) in April proved to be disappointing when it came to tackling the issues relevant to implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and in addressing broader structural issues and fundamental changes needed in the global economic system. The outcome document also failed to lay down clear steps that point to decisive actions.

The GPEDC, later in November, held its Second High Level Meeting (HLM2). The outcome document affirmed the role of CSOs as important actors in development. But it also reiterated a role for the profit-motivated private sector, and private-public partnerships (PPPs), in development practice.

Peoples' response: assertion and defence of rights

Meanwhile, the depraved logic of the current economic, political and social system, which runs counter to peoples' rights, increasingly affected peoples around the world, while amassing profits for global corporate elites and transnational corporations of developed countries. In response, people's movements continued

and equitable global economic environment for trade and development. TD/519/Add.2, September 5. http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/td519add2_en.pdf

6 Mason, Rowena. 2016. "OECD redefines foreign aid to include some military spending." The Guardian, February 20. theguardian.com/global-development/2016/feb/20/oecd-redefines-foreign-aid-to-include-some-military-spending

7 OECD Development Assistance Committee. 2016. High Level Meeting Communique. February 19. oecd.org/dac/DAC-HLM-Communique-2016.pdf

Loi Manalansan

to struggle for their rights and articulate their demands, such as through mass actions.

In the Global South, a protest by 6,000 peasants and farmers in Kidapawan in the Philippines brought to the forefront the oppressed situation of the rural peoples, who called for food aid from the government's calamity funds amidst a drought. This showed how the people collectively acted to claim their economic rights, despite the violent response of state and military forces.

In Bangladesh, people have also continued to organize despite illegal arrests and state violence, in order to protect the 10,000 square kilometer mangrove forest against the construction of Rampal coal-fired power plant, which will burn an estimated 4.72 million tons of coal every year. The mangrove forest is a valuable source of food and livelihood in surrounding communities, and also serves as protection against disasters.

Movements that similarly resist corporate power and assert economic rights of the people can be found in the Global North. In North Dakota, the Standing Rock

Sioux tribe, together with thousands across the United States, acted to halt the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. This would carry 570,000 barrels of crude oil, traversing sacred burial grounds and primary water sources.

In addition, Germany saw the anti-coal group Ende Gelände carry out acts of civil disobedience to disrupt 'business as usual' at an open-cast Lignite mine in Lusatia, one of Europe's largest CO2 producers.

Throughout Europe, the year saw mobilizations of more than 10,000 people, against the emerging free trade agreements (FTAs) that will compromise labour rights and the environment, such as the US-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Mass protests from both Global North and South were also seen against other FTAs that push for more open markets and which highly favour corporations, such as the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) for Asia and the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) for Africa.

CSOs and people's organizations also raised their voices in the streets. For instance, during the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22) in Morocco, various organizations that represent indigenous peoples, workers, women and rural communities gathered to assert their rights as the ones who are at the receiving end of climate change effects, and to call for the Global North to commit to its historical responsibility to cut emissions.

All these show that the toiling masses, who in general are the ones most threatened and trampled upon by the movement of global capital, are capable of engaging and resisting the ruthless, moribund economic system.

HEALTH
PEOPLE OVER PROFIT
Seeds a
農民の種

Prospects and Plans for 2017

Amid challenges and opportunities presented by the global situation, people's movements and CSOs continue to refine their efforts as they struggle towards changing economic and political systems to benefit the people.

IBON International stands by its pro-people orientation in its knowledge, capacity building, and campaign efforts for 2017; also in carrying out its Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 in practice. Over the next four years, we will advance Rights-based Democracy/People-Powered Democracy (RBD/PPD) in our work.

Putting these principles into practice means empowering the people to self-organise, in order for them to claim their economic, political and cultural rights; affirm their sovereignty to transform governance; and promote an enabling State and economic democracy.

United Nations

Aside from fostering rights-based democracy, we will sustain our work in the areas of trade and investment, public-private partnerships, development finance, climate justice and sustainable development.

Towards these, IBON International will continue to undertake policy research that offers both nuanced analysis and principles adaptable for policy alternatives. Such evidence-based research will remain to be a basis for our advocacy and campaigns.

For 2017, among the major events for the scaled-up initiatives of our organization and networks will be the East Asian Summit and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in the Philippines, the World Trade Organization Ministerial to be held in Argentina, and the 23rd Conference of Parties (COP) in Germany.

We will continue to pursue engagements with global development processes and institutions to articulate positions on the side of peoples in struggle, especially those of the Global South, and also monitor the progress and implementation of international commitments from a people-oriented lens.

More importantly, and also in line with our building of RBD/PPD, we will engage and forge links with likeminded CSOs and people's organizations – who are representatives of the people — towards empowering social movements and contributing to efforts to address systemic roots of poverty and inequality.

Furthermore, in the second year of the implementation of our Strategic Plan, we also commit to the development and fundraising for our programs and initiatives. We will consolidate our regional offices, which are essential links to peoples and organizations in other regions aside from providing support to our partnerships and networks. At the same time, we will also initiate efforts to reach out more effectively at country-level.

We also commit to enhancing our internal organization and empowering our staff through trainings and seminar workshops, aside from addressing staff needs and welfare.

Programs

Under the overall strategic framework of building Rights-based Democracy or People-Powered Democracy, we launched our program themes, which are also central to our mission objectives for the next four years.

Pixabay

TRADE AND INVESTMENT:
Protecting people's economic rights

In 2016, amidst people's protests against free trade agreements (FTAs) in Europe, North America and Asia, negotiations for many regional and bilateral FTAs continued. People's organizations were victorious as the TTIP (EU-US Trans Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) negotiations crumbled, but the fight continues with the CETA (EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement), hurriedly signed late October.

The EPAs (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific - EU Economic Partnership Agreements) were much debated by the East African Community (EAC), and the signing was postponed to January 2017, given the need to further study and agree on contentious issues.

People's protests against both TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) and RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) were high as both FTAs play-out a battle between US and China for domination over trade and investment rules in the theatre of the Asia Pacific.

Under this scenario, the UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) held its 14th session in Nairobi, Kenya from July 15 to 22. We issued our position against the continued erosion of the role and mandate of UNCTAD ("*Reclaiming UNCTAD: Draw From Its Roots To Resist Neo-Liberal Agenda*") and collaborated with other CSOs in holding two side-events: on trading inequalities and on climate agreements & trade agreements.

We came out with a policy brief on TPP ("*The Trans-Pacific Partnership: An Expansion of Whose Agenda?*"). We also joined, as a convenor, the People Over Profit network, which is a campaign network that unites people's movements and NGOs across the globe to stop FTAs and corporate plunder. In collaboration with the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) and various people's organizations on the ground, we held seminars on campaigning against trade deals between October to December in the Philippines and Indonesia.

A total of 313 leaders, representing more than 71 organizations from the sectors and groups of farmers, farm workers, workers, women, youth, indigenous peoples,

urban poor, health workers, church workers, cultural groups, research and campaign centers, attended the seminars.

The seminars included a workshop where people's organizations drew-up campaign plans against FTAs and bilateral investment treaties (BITs), focusing on RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership), TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership) and ASEAN-related engagements. We developed and used the following modules for the seminars: 1) 21st century trade agreements and its impacts on the world's people; 2) TPP and RCEP and implications for the Asia Pacific Region; 3) Strategies for campaigning against FTAs and TNCs in the Philippines.

We also engaged with the 16th RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee (RCEP TNC) Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia on December, by participating in the Regional CSO Strategy Meeting and the CSO/Stakeholder Meeting with the RCEP TNC. We made interventions in behalf of migrant workers adversely affected by trade and investment deals and issued a strong statement against FTAs, in collaboration with APRN and local people's organizations in Indonesia.

Thus, we made in-roads into our mission objective of supporting the capacities of people and organizations to engage trade and investment agreements and policies through awareness building and training.

People Over Profit

Born at the height of regional campaigns against the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) and the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the People Over Profit network is a global coalition of NGOs and social movements, campaigning against Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and corporate plunder.

Established in October 2016, the network was first convened by nine (9) organizations, with the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) as its secretariat. Through a unity statement titled "*Trade for the People, Not for Corporate Elites*", the network was able to gather 114 campaign initiators who have committed to be part of the global campaign.

Four months since it was formed, the network has launched various country-level trainings in Asia (Philippines and Indonesia) and Africa (Senegal and Kenya); produced primers on mega-regional FTAs such as the RCEP and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs); organized mass actions in RCEP negotiations; and have advanced its advocacy positions to various governments and trade ministers.

People Over Profit is campaigning against destructive trade deals that are increasingly being fast-tracked, with negotiations aimed to be concluded before the end of 2017. These include upcoming rounds of negotiations for the RCEP, TiSA, and the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2017, to be held at Buenos Aires, Argentina.

DEMOCRACY:

Building a constituency in promotion of Rights-based Democracy/People-Powered Democracy

The year 2016 marks the 40th year since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on the Rights of the Peoples in Algiers. The Algiers Declaration upholds the comprehensive, indivisible, and democratic character of people's rights, which go beyond individual liberties and encompass rights held in common including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

In a period where people's rights are gravely threatened under the multiple crises troubling the world capitalist system, we initiated efforts to uphold the spirit of the Algiers Declaration by advocating people's sovereignty and people's rights.

In preparation for the International Conference on People's Rights in the Philippines (ICPRP), we initiated People's Rights seminars which underscored the concepts of collective rights, people's rights, people's sovereignty and democracy for people's organizations coming from Mindanao and Manila. Organizations also shared case

stories illustrating the assertion and defence of people's rights. These stories were compiled and prepared for publication, and will be available in 2017. We also came out with a policy paper, titled "*Democracy Founded on People's Sovereignty*" in support of these capacity building efforts.

Through our efforts in awareness raising and capacity building for this program area, important concepts on people's rights, people's sovereignty and democracy were clarified and underscored. Moreover, the case stories from people's organizations showing the actual practice, defense and assertion of people's rights affirm the correctness of building Rights-based Democracy or People-Powered Democracy as a transformative framework.

International Conference on People's Rights in the Philippines (ICPRP)

From July 23 to 24, around 500 representatives from people's and civil society organizations gathered for the International Conference for Peoples' Rights in the Philippines (ICPRP) in Davao City in the Philippines.

The Conference brought to light the situation of peoples' rights around the world, through discussions by Antonio Tujan Jr. (IBON International), Demba Moussa Dembele (African Forum for Alternatives), Prof. Camilo Perez-Bustillo (Human Rights Centre at the University of Dayton) and Sarojeni Renggam (Pesticide Action Network – Asia Pacific), among others.

The two-day conference also discussed peoples' rights in the Philippines – such as the right to development – given the situations of imperialist aggression, militarization and climate change.

Simultaneous workshops were conducted by organizations representing women, peasants, Lumad and Moro peoples and migrants; local human rights organizations and a lawyers' union; and other formations such as BAYAN (New Patriotic Alliance), IBON International and the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS).

ICPRP was organised by the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP), Initiatives for Peace in Mindanao (InPeace), KARAPATAN Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights in the Philippines, and the Ecumenical Voice for Human Rights and Peace (EcuVoice).

It was co-organised by BAYAN, ILPS and IBON International.

Igniting International Solidarity

To spark international solidarity for peoples' struggles in the Philippines, days before the ICPRP, around 200 delegates from around the world experienced the situations of struggle against violations of people's rights (against militarization, repression, development aggression) in an International Solidarity Mission in eleven (11) areas in the Philippines.

From July 16 to 20, delegates, including staff from IBON International, heard narratives of struggle from the marginalized, held dialogues with the local authorities and churches, joined mass actions, and participated in the daily economic life of the communities.

Reflections from participating IBON International staff, on the important issues affecting the people, can be seen in two of our online releases: *"Igniting International Solidarity for the Lumad: Reflections from the International Solidarity Mission in Kitaotao, Bukidnon"* and *"The Struggle for Peoples' Rights: Land, Food and Justice in Kidapawan*."

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE/PPPs:

Ensuring people's development in the face of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Private sector influence in development finance has been steadily rising in the past years, especially after the financial crisis of 2008. Many cash-strapped governments from developing countries have turned to private sector investments for public sector works and services, which can be seen as a corporate take-over of the role and initiative of government at the expense of public interest.

IBON International, with the aim of working with people's organizations in defending public control over basic public services, produced a video titled "*Public-Private Partnerships: Public costs, Private Gain*." The video focused on the public costs of PPPs, such as the use of taxpayers' money to ensure corporate profits; marginalisation of the poor from basic social services due to the rising costs of these services; and land grabbing and displacement of indigenous peoples, rural and urban communities to give way to mega-PPP projects. The video also talked about the privatization of aid and development cooperation, as donors combine aid with private investment.

In July, we participated in the Fifth Biennial High-Level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum, where we highlighted democratic participation, ownership of results and CSO role in generating evidence in an intervention during the session on monitoring and review of development cooperation. We also contributed in the Reality of Aid (RoA) side event titled "*Enhancing Accountability and Policy Coherence in SSC: Monitoring Quality & Documenting Impact at Country Level*", discussing horizontal development cooperation.

As part of the CSO Financing for Development (FfD) Group, we participated in the inaugural UN ECOSOC FfD Forum in April, which was meant to initiate a follow-up process for the FfD Conferences. We issued an analysis which pointed out the shortcomings in both preparations and outcome of the forum, which affected the potentials of the annual review process.

We also participated in a consultation organized by the Financing for Development Office (FfDO), identifying crosscutting issues within the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which could benefit from joint initiatives by CSOs and the FfDO. PPPs were identified as one of the issues, and we volunteered to be part of the knowledge-building efforts for the theme, which includes research/mapping and gathering of case stories.

These efforts build on the work of monitoring development finance and feed into future activities for the PPP theme, with the objective of working with people's organizations in defending public control over basic services and advocating for human rights-based standards in regulating PPPs.

CLIMATE JUSTICE:
Building resilient communities

2016 marks the coming into force of the Paris Climate Agreement in November, and the 23rd Conference of Parties held in Marrakech, Morocco. The year also saw milestones in asserting people's sovereignty in the global North and South, in the face of increasing repression of environmental and human rights activists.

These actual actions, with lasting solutions being struggled for and won by peoples at the frontline, continues to inspire our work with the people in the struggle for climate justice.

Our work took us across the different global regions, working with people's organizations in Bolivia, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines and Senegal and supporting them to lead and build resilient communities. We see our work contributing to communities' defense of their lives and livelihood, and asserting people's meaningful participation and ownership of development policies and programs.

We have also completed the video regarding on our work on this program, titled "*IBON International: Climate Justice"*; undertaken a global research on climate action commitments as well as followed and analyzed the 2016 international climate negotiations in Marrakech and its outcomes, producing three IBON International Updates ("'*COP of action' opens with a high note*"; "*Thousands troop to Kasbah as climate talks enter 2nd week*"; "*Action, action everywhere but nowhere*").

Throughout the year, we have also used different moments to build stronger community and linkages with other organizations dedicated to advocating climate justice.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS/ AGENDA 2030

With the conclusion of the Campaign for People's Goals (CPG) in September 2015, we moved to study and evaluate possible platforms in engaging the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or the Agenda 2030.

We participated in the 1st High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) of the Sustainable Development Goals on July 11-20 at the United Nations Headquarters. At the HLPF, we made an intervention on the thematic discussion on mobilising means of implementation (MOI) using science, technology & innovation. We were also invited to the expert review meeting of the 2017 Annual Regional SDG Report under the UN United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)/Asian Development Bank (ADB)/ UN Development Programme (UNDP) Asia Pacific SDG, to provide our views on the issues to be addressed by the report.

All of our mission objectives cut across the SDGs, especially the Means of Implementation (MOI) that tackles among other things, the financing and resources needed to implement the SDGs. Our objectives of protecting people's economic rights in trade and investment, and ensuring people's development in the face of PPPs were well articulated in all engagements involving the SDGs.

Networks

Networks and partnerships are part of our strategy in many areas of our work. We continue to host network organisations which also strive towards development for the people and social transformation.

CIMMYT

CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)

Contributions to global policy discourse

Continuing its campaign for more effective development, the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) pushed for universalizing effective development co-operation (uEDC) in its engagement in the Second High Level Ministerial Meeting (HLM2) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) in Nairobi, Kenya in November. To universalize EDC means renewing development commitments made in the previous high level forums in Rome, Paris, Accra, and Busan.

CPDE members called for ensuring that specific priorities to universalize EDC were part of the agenda, such as CSO development effectiveness, enabling environment, private sector accountability, South-South co-operation and security, peace & development. CPDE efforts also resulted to support by other GPEDC Steering Committee members of a number of civil society positions during the negotiations, with the "red lines" of CSOs – the core business through enabling environment, private sector accountability, and the GPEDC mandate – included in the Nairobi Outcome Document.

With these renewed commitments, it is imperative for CPDE to monitor the GPEDC's implementation to ensure that development is felt at the grassroots level; that CSOs are recognized as independent development actors; and that the GPEDC avoids watering down its vital role in making development cooperation more effective for all.

Aside from these policy gains, another highlight of the HML2 engagement was the launch of the CPDE *"Global Synthesis Report on the State of Development Co-operation: Checking the Core of Effectiveness"*, which featured country case studies about the state of development cooperation at national level. The Report found remaining issues, such as donor influence in ODA priorities, shrinking spaces for CSO activity, limited access to information and unidirectional accountability.

This, together with the "*Action Research on the State of CSO Development Effectiveness and Accountability*", which focused on regulations that restrict CSO activity and civil society efforts to ensure their own effectiveness, became the evidence-based research put forward by CSOs in their engagement in the HLM2.

Expansion and Consolidation

In its efforts to diversify membership, CPDE welcomed the Migrants and Diaspora Sector during the 4th Global Council Meeting of CPDE members in Nairobi in November. This expanded the CPDE membership to eight global sectors. The Latin America and Caribbean region also expanded to include the Caribbean alongside the Central America, South Cone, and Andean sub-regions.

CPDE also consolidated the 400 civil society delegates in the HLM2 engagement to have a unified voice. Meetings, such as the CSO Forum and the 4th Global Council Meeting, were held with all civil society delegates to arrive at a unified position on issues discussed during HLM2 sessions. These also served as avenues for CSO delegates to exchange perspectives and lessons learned.

These activities also facilitated the development of the CSO Communiqué, which laid down the joint positions of the civil society delegates present: a reaffirmation of the effective development co-operation commitments made since Paris; an explicit reference to the shrinking space for CSOs and the clear Busan commitments on CSO enabling environment; a demand to ensure corporate accountability and transparency; and a call to maintain the GPEDC mandate of strengthening development co-operation.

Arriving at unified positions was made possible through a Strategic Planning exercise in January 2016, where the CPDE Coordination Committee (CC) deliberated the necessary actions to make the CPDE advocacy more focused and to systematize the ways of working between and among constituencies.

This Strategic Planning process enabled CPDE to clarify its advocacy priorities on universalizing effective development co-operation and the specific advocacy priorities to achieve uEDC. 2017 would be the time to fine-tune how the previous advocacy priorities of Agenda 2030 and Human Rights-Based Approaches figure in the uEDC policy agenda.

CSO Enabling Environment has also consistently been a priority. For the GPEDC Second Monitoring Round, which checks the progress of implementing development indicators, CPDE ensured participation of member countries to inform the Global Progress Report on Indicator 2.

Major Projects for 2017

Post-HLM2 will prove to be vital in terms of monitoring commitments found in the Nairobi Outcome Document. CPDE will make sure to monitor these through continued engagement in the GPEDC.

The *Istanbul Principles @ 7 Conference*, to take place in March in Thailand, will also be another highlight. The Conference will take stock of the progress of implementing the Istanbul Principles on CSO Development Effectiveness, seven years after it was conceived. This will also aim to forge commitments among participants to ensure that CSO Development Effectiveness remains to be an important principle in development co-operation.

IBON Internationa

Participation in CPDE-ROA workshop on effective SSDC in Manila

Participation in CSO FfD Planning Workshop in Rome

Intervention at DCF Biennial High-Level Meetin

Co-organized International Conference on People's Righ in the Philippines

Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June

Participation in Inaugural UN FfD Forum in New York

IBON Int'l speaks at DCF Belgium High-Level Symposium

CSOs, including IBON International, respond to World Bank draft on PPP disclosure

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Seminar series on Peo with leaders of Philipp organisations in Manil

Launch of Seminar on Peop

l: 2016 at a glance

Attended the Civil Society Climate Meeting in Morocco

Launch of People Over Profit Network in Manila

July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec

-organized APRN
rkshop
resisting militarism
the World Social
rum in Montreal

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ple's Rights in Davao

Participation in the 2nd High-Level Meeting of the GPEDC in Nairobi

Engagement in the COP22 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Engagement in the Regional CSO Strategy Meeting and Stakeholder Meeting with the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee

IBON Int'l speaks at Global Gathering of People's Researchers in Nairobi

CPDE will also commence the implementation of Regional Observatorio workshops, aiming to monitor the implementation of Development Partnerships in regions and to identify mechanisms for intervention in these processes. Global sectoral formations will also conduct workshops on CSO development effectiveness and accountability. CPDE aims for sectoral commitments in implementing the CSO DE principles, as only a few sectors have seriously dealt with this thematic issue.

Reality of Aid Network

In 2016, Reality of Aid (RoA) saw the need to enhance the network's advocacy, towards its overall objective of reforming official aid policies and practices to focus on poverty eradication and to reduce the aid dependency of developing countries. South-South co-operation, the issue of technical co-operation, and engagement of international organizations concerned with aid and development effectiveness such as the GPEDC, the OECD-DAC, BRICS and SSC forums, became advocacy priorities for the network.

South-South co-operation

In focusing on issues related to South-South development co-operation (SSDC), RoA co-organized, with Oxfam South Africa, a workshop on accountability and inclusivity in SSC in November, and a side event with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) at the High-Level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) in July, regarding the critical role of participative and rights-based approaches for accountable South-South partnerships.

The network also organized a follow-up Technical Workshop, with the UNDP Policy Centre, to develop a rights-based monitoring framework on SSC. In the Second High Level Meeting (HLM2) in Nairobi, RoA-Africa organized a session on South-South Partnerships for development in Africa.

For CSOs to form a united position for the 2016 BRICS Summit, RoA joined other CSOs from BRICS and other developing countries in the Prelude International BRICS meetings and its civil forum. RoA also empowered CSOs as it discussed, in a CSO meeting with DAC Chair Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, strengthening relations between the DAC and CSO community through institutionalizing CSO engagement.

Engagements with the OECD-DAC

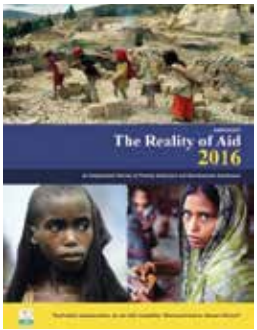
The network was also able to put forward its positions, regarding development finance in relation to technical cooperation and the role of the private sector in supporting the SDGs, in a discussion called "*Future of Aid*" co-organized with the OECD-DAC.

The Nairobi CSO Forum, the 2nd High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (HLM2), and the latter's preparatory activities provided RoA with opportunities for advocacy and for events that will bring CSO positions to other important stakeholders and policy-makers. The new RoA Chair, Leo Atakpu, was also first introduced in HLM2.

In the HLM2 proper, RoA co-organized, with the Learning Network for Capacity Development (LenCD) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), a side event titled "*Technical Cooperation and Capacity Development as Aid*". This brought together representatives from both OECD-DAC and Southern governments, and various civil society actors, and examined the provision of technical cooperation in developing countries from both provider and recipient perspectives.

Publications

RoA also focused on technical cooperation for the Reality of *Aid 2016 Report ("Technical cooperation as an aid modality: Demand-led or donor-driven?")*. Comprised of 23 contributions, the 2016 Report drew lessons from both positive and problematic practices in technical co-operation. It also laid down principles on how technical cooperation could contribute to development effectiveness and the reduction of poverty.



The soft launch for the abridged edition of the RoA Report, during the October OECD-DAC Senior Level Meeting in Paris, allowed the network to present outstanding messages from the Report to DAC delegates. The full 2016 Report was launched the next month during the 2nd High-Level Meeting (HLM2) of the GPEDC.

Aside from the 2016 Report, RoA Asia-Pacific released an issue of the official RoA newsletter, *Reality Check*, on Asian Development Bank programs in the region. RoA members from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) also produced another issue of *Reality Check*, titled "*What cooperation for what kind of development?*" bringing together the perspectives of various civil society and people's organizations on development issues throughout the LAC.

RoA also continued its work in providing trainings and workshops for CSOs through its regional units. RoA Asia-Pacific provided regional and country-level research trainings/workshops on aid monitoring in Nepal, Pakistan, and Myanmar. RoA Africa, meanwhile, organized regional meetings to unite CSOs towards a common position for the GPEDC HLM2 process.

People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)

In 2016, the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) campaigned against food injustice and repression, seeking to expose and oppose the growing corporate control over agriculture and food systems, and the intensifying repression of farmers and other small-scale food producers around the world.

It sought to bring to international attention the killing of protesting farmers in Kidapawan City in the Philippines, the massacre of protesting indigenous peoples in Ethiopia, the assassination of Honduran food sovereignty activist Berta Cáceres, among other cases of repression.

PCFS also denounced the massive buyouts and mergers of agrochemical monopolies, and contributed to the worldwide condemnation of US-based biotechnology giant Monsanto — which peaked in the International Monsanto Tribunal in The Hague in October 2016.

The coalition called on its affiliates to hold mobilizations and other actions on October 12, which it dubbed "*Farmers' Day of Action for Food Justice*." PCFS affiliates from Pakistan, Bolivia, the Philippines, Palestine and other countries, heeded the call. The day of action is in observance of World Hunger Day, held yearly, on October 16.

Led by its global secretariat, PCFS held discussions on neoliberal policies and food sovereignty across the globe, providing the larger context behind increasing corporate control over agriculture and food systems, and the intensifying repression of farmers and small-scale food producers.

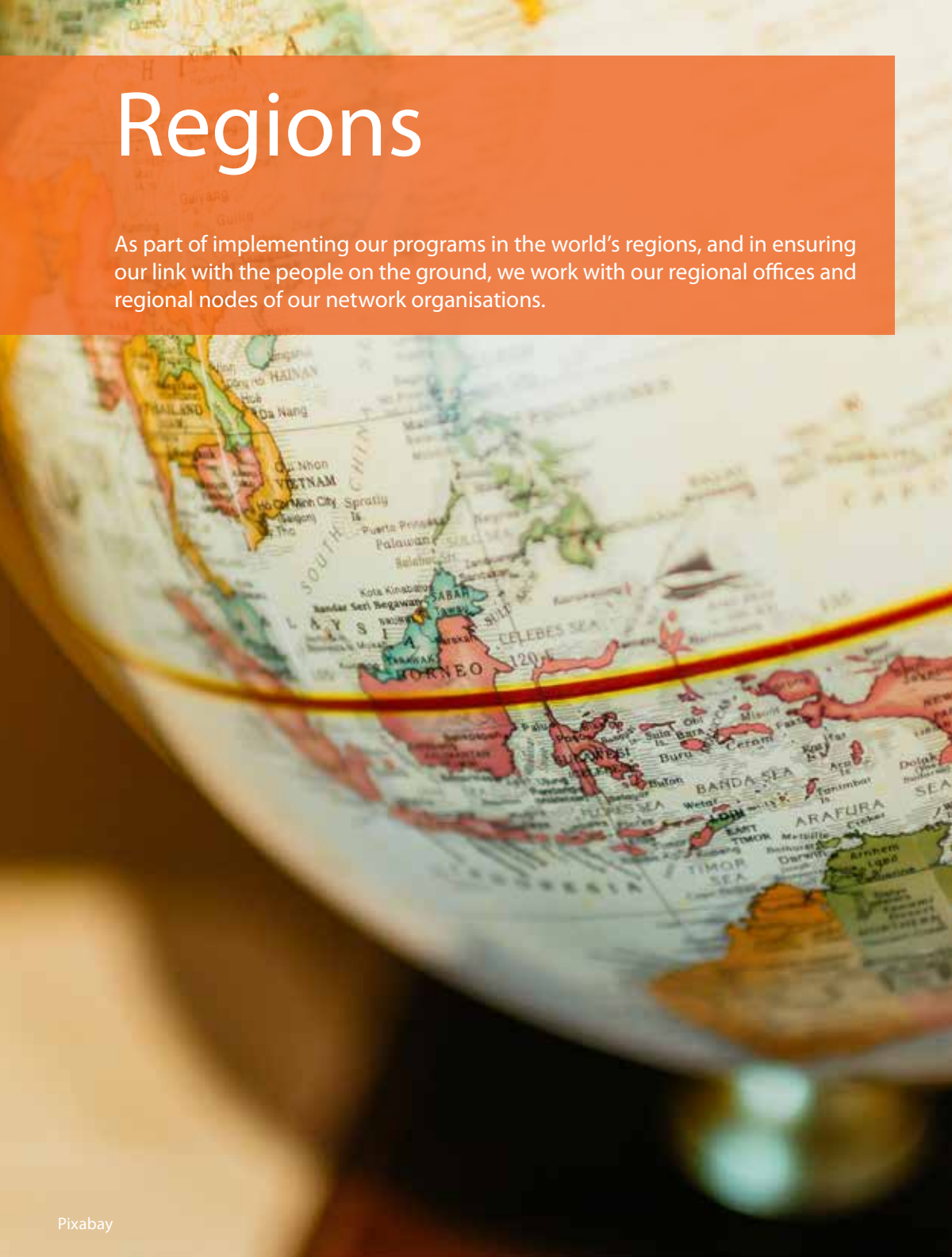
PCFS also released a book titled "*Aiding Militarism and Subversion of Agriculture"*, for use by grassroots activists fighting for food sovereignty. It contains case studies from global regions which illustrate the impact of military and development aid on food sovereignty and repression in conflict-affected countries. The coalition worked with various research NGOs that are close observers and experts on the national conflicts: the Bolivian *Grupo de Trabajo Cambio Climático y Justicia* (GTCCJ) and the Guatemalan *Asociacion Raxcho'ch' Oxlaju AJ* (AROAJ) for Colombia; *Anywaa Survival Organisation* (ASO) for Ethiopia; Roots for Equity for Pakistan; and Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) for Palestine.

In 2017, PCFS aims to strengthen its campaigns against free trade agreements promoted by the world's economic and political powers, and against the repression of farmers and other small-scale food producers.

It plans to produce more research and relevant materials that would be helpful to grassroots activists who are fighting for food sovereignty amidst the protracted economic crisis and intensifying wars and repression. PCFS seeks to do all these as it seeks to expand and consolidate its membership, and further enhance the functioning of its structures at the regional level.

Regions

As part of implementing our programs in the world's regions, and in ensuring our link with the people on the ground, we work with our regional offices and regional nodes of our network organisations.



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Africa

IBON International West and Central Africa Office

The IBON International office in West and Central Africa (WCAO) began the year with participation in a year-end assessment and planning in Manila, where objectives of the office were clarified, in addition to building its capacity. It was agreed that IBON International should support and strengthen the regional offices.

The Office also contributed to supporting and popularising several solidarity campaigns through disseminating information from Manila. This includes support for the farmers of Kidapawan, with a campaign that was widely popularized in Senegal and West & Central Africa. The Office sent petitions to the various partners who expressed their support for the struggle of the Kidapawan farmers.

Still in line with solidarity with the Filipino people, representatives from the WCAO participated in the International Conference for Peoples' Rights in the Philippines (ICPRP), held in Davao, in July. During ICPRP, the WCAO also discussed various aspects of African peoples' struggles against global capitalism and imperialism, and the new "scramble" for the resources of Africa via the imposition of trade liberalization and also militarization.

In October, the WCAO also participated in a three-day seminar in Dakar, which enabled the Office to strengthen its capacity and its network in the region. The seminar also discussed the militarization of the African continent for the control of resources, and how it is masked by "war on terror" narratives or by the form of "humanitarian" interventions. The seminar explained how this is reinforced by the establishment and strengthening of military bases, through arrangements such as AFRICOM.

The occasion was also seized to strengthen the struggle of the "No to EPAs" coalition in Senegal, with the coalition also becoming part of the global anti-

imperialist struggle. The seminar stressed how EPAs can hamper efforts at industrialization and agriculture in Africa; compromise the sovereignty of African states; and threaten sub-regional integration.

Discussions on food sovereignty also helped to better understand the situation of global hunger and poverty, and the dangers of dependence posed by genetically modified organisms (GMOs) produced by multinational corporations.

The WCAO also continued its implementation and identification of strategic partners. During the Mid-Term Review of the Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), held in Antalya, the WCAO also met some of our partners from other African states such as Guinea, Gambia, DRC, Benin, Togo, Mali, Mauritania, Chad and Central African Republic.

During the ICPRP, the Office made several contacts with other African groups as well as with international delegations from around the world.

For 2017, the West and Central Africa Office plans to strengthen its work with partners in Senegal and in other countries on the struggles for food sovereignty; against neoliberal policies such as agreements on trade liberalization; and against imperialist intervention and foreign military bases in Africa. In this regard, a brochure will be published on militarism, in order to awaken African social movements and the public on the dangers of militarization, especially on the part of US imperialism with its AFRICOM agenda.

IBON International East and Southern Africa Office

The three main themes of environment, trade, and development co-operation figured highly in the engagements of IBON International East and Southern Africa Office (IBON ESAO) for 2016, with the coming to town of the 2nd UN Environment Assembly (UNEA2), the 14th Session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV) as well as the 2nd High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in Nairobi.

In these engagements, we linked with our African CSO and social movement partners as well as with our inter-regional networks in Asia, Europe, North America and Latin America to advance the strongest possible CSO positions.

Paramount in these engagements is stressing the primacy of people over profits, whether these relate to the inequitable world trade order, climate crises, aid and development effectiveness, or food sovereignty.

The UNEA2 saw greater coordination in mapping out strategy, engagements, coming out of statements and outcome documents to make sure CSO voices are heard, reported and included.

The UNCTAD XIV also demanded greater cooperation among CSOs in pushing for the development mandate of the UNCTAD. CSOs, including trade unions and those working on tax, debt and trade tirelessly pushed the envelope for G77 countries to affirm UNCTAD's development mandate. Eventually, CSOs were disappointed in

the middling level of ambition the UNCTAD took in facing challenges in the global crisis.

The IBON ESAO was also part of the local organizing committee for the HLM2 of the GPEDC held in Nairobi, primarily through the logistics as well as the communications sub-committees.

As part of the build-up for HLM2, preparatory Pan-Africa conferences on fast-tracking the SDGs through development co-operation were held. These served as capacity-building and awareness-raising for women and youth organizations not yet familiar with the context of development co-operation and the aid architecture in Africa.

The IBON ESAO also supported and co-organized the first regional workshop on indigenous peoples in Africa, enabling our partner organizations to link with other organizations working on indigenous peoples' rights. The intersections of climate justice, food sovereignty, militarism, resource and landgrabs came to the fore in the discussions.

Having laid the groundwork in preceding years, the ESAO continued to deepen discussions and networks among its frontline community and CSO partners towards a more critical look at the climate crisis and corporate-driven laws related to food.

In this regard, the office stressed the need for a Pan-African and global action to address the root causes of climate change, and provided support for the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty in light of the onerous Seed Laws criminalizing the storage, use, and exchange of traditional seeds among farmers in Africa. IBON International ESAO also continued to build upon existing partnerships with our network of African CSOs, social movements and grassroots organizations while reaching out and working with new development actors.

In 2017, the regional office hopes to address remaining issues relating to program development, resource mobilization and personnel. It also looks forward to strengthening a regional CSO engagement mechanism to more effectively wield influence in policy engagement in advancing the rights of the people.

Asia Pacific

Asia Pacific Research Network

In 2016, the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) continued to address issues of the region in service of marginalized sectors and communities through research and advocacy. APRN contributed in campaigns to advance people's rights in the region along the themes of trade, regional integration, sustainable development, and militarism. APRN also helped in building people's capacity for research and advocacy as well as in helping CSOs improve on their own development effectiveness (CSO DE).

Free trade agreements

With the rise of 21st century free trade and investment agreements (FTAs) and increasing corporate power in the Asia Pacific, APRN pursued spaces for critical engagement on the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The network engaged RCEP trade ministers during the 16th round of negotiations in Banten, Indonesia; participated in the regional week of action against RCEP; and co-organized the People's Strategy Meeting on RCEP in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The network also contributed in building capacities of people's organizations to critically engage and launch campaigns on neoliberal trade agreements in the Asia Pacific through seminars and materials that raise awareness on FTAs and their impending impacts on the people.

APRN conducted a National Workshop and a National Training Seminar on FTAs in Davao City, Philippines and in Jakarta, Indonesia, respectively; and produced a briefer on RCEP as well as other materials for social media.

Regional integration, militarism, CSO DE

APRN also sustained its engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states by participating in the annual ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum (ACSC/APF), wherein APRN actively promoted the need for an alternative and genuinely people-centred regionalism.

APRN continued engaging the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level through co-chairing the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM), which served to promote CSO collective action and engagement with the United Nations and other intergovernmental institutions in the region.

The network also addressed the issue of militarism and wars by conducting a workshop on strategies to resist militarism in August at the World Social Forum 2016 in Montreal, Canada. APRN also embarked on a coordinated research on militarism and wars that focused on the growing military offensives in the Asia Pacific while also highlighting various forms of people's resistance.

Furthermore, APRN exercised its co-leadership in the CPDE Working Group on CSO DE and continued work on facing challenges of shrinking democratic spaces in the region.

Along these lines, APRN conducted the National Training Seminar on CSO DE and Accountability inNepal in October and on CSO Accountability in Mongolia in December. Complementing its efforts to promote its messages on DE, Enabling Environment, and the role of private sector in development, APRN continued its engagement with the Policy Forum on Development (PFD).

Major plans for 2017

Building on its gains throughout the year, APRN will continue advancing people's rights through its initiatives on research, advocacy, and trainings. The network is set to hold its *Biennial Conference on Militarism and Democracy* wherein the results of the coordinated research on the same topic will be launched.

Critical engagement and campaigns against RCEP and similar trade agreements are also seen to intensify. APRN will remain engaged in implementing and monitoring the Agenda 2030 through the AP-RCEM platform.

With the ASEAN's 50th founding anniversary in 2017, APRN's work on regional integration will also become a priority. Lastly, the network will seek to further improve its people's research trainings and publications to help develop people's movements' capacities for campaigning, research and advocacy.

Reality of Aid – Asia-Pacific

The Reality of Aid Asia-Pacific (RoA-AP) strengthened its work in providing capacity development activities for CSOs, asserting its advocacies, engaging international and regional policy arenas, and producing relevant knowledge outputs.

As regional secretariat of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) in Asia, RoA-AP organized workshops on aid monitoring and CSO accountability with partner organizations in Nepal, Pakistan and Myanmar. Held since 2013, this year marks the end of the program for these CPDE workshops in fifteen (15) countries in Asia. The workshops helped CSOs come up with country plans and CSO country structures to strengthen their work in accountability and aid monitoring.

The network also worked with other CSOs in the region on key issues. During the CSO Forum in Nairobi, RoA-AP co-organized a session on aid and militarization in developing countries, highlighting its effects on the poor and marginalized. RoA-AP also took part in the launch of the Reality of Aid 2016 Report and in the Reality

of Aid side event on technical co-operation during the 2nd High-Level Meeting (HLM2) of the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

With its advocacy positions on South-South co-operation, CSO enabling environment, technical co-operation, and effective development co--operation, RoA-AP actively engaged global and regional policy arenas: 1) the UNESCAP's First High-Level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development; 2) the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD); 3) the consultations of the Asia-Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility (AP-DEF) for the 2nd High-Level Meeting of the GPEDC; and 4) the AP-DEF's Workshop on Planning and Budgeting for Results: Leveraging Resources to Deliver Impact.

In highlighting current issues on aid and development co-operation, the RoA-AP produced and distributed another issue of its official newsletter, *Reality Check*, titled *"Aid and Poverty: Probing ADB Programs for Asia's Poor"*. Using development effectiveness benchmarks and unique perspectives from civil society, it looked into the ADB's mandates, policy priorities, strategies and programs in eradicating poverty in the Asia-Pacific. RoA-AP was also consistent in profiling itself through research and communications (press releases, info-posters), meetings and engagements, as well as in keeping an active online presence through its website and social media.

Europe, Latin America, & the Caribbean

IBON International Latin America and the Caribbean

The year 2016 for IBON International Office in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) focused on the establishment of the Latin America and the Caribbean People's Research Network (LACPRN). Other organizations in the region committed to work on the new network after a workshop with IBON's partners in Nairobi, Kenya.

As part of the process that began in 2015, we concluded the project *"Improving the Effective Participation of Civil Society in Defense of Climate Justice towards System Change,"* with the final research to be presented to constituents in 2017.

Another achievement in 2016 was our promotion of the work in the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) on the theme of Agenda 2030. The regional office participated and coordinated the delegation to the High-Level Political Forum at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Like in previous years, we gave support to the Peoples' Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) through the Regional Executive Secretariat.

On the other hand, previously established relationships with development co-operation agencies were deepened and consolidated.

In 2017, IBON International LAC will likewise focus its efforts on reaching specific but significant goals. The regional office will consolidate the setting up of LACPRN, and expand our network of partners with member organizations of the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) in the region.

We will carry out advocacy and campaign in relation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Meeting that will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina in December. IBON International LAC will also resume regional coordination for PCFS, which will require greater commitment.

IBON International Europe

In 2016, the Europe Office of IBON International in Brussels focused on support work for activities in line with our program areas. In particular, the Europe office was able to garner additional support for our activities regarding trade and investment.

These involved seminars, conducted in the Philippines and made possible by the financial support garnered by the Europe Office, which revolved on the foreseen effects of emerging free trade agreements, which will further liberalize economies such as the Philippine agricultural sector.

The seminars served as capacity-building activities for Philippine peasant and farmer organizations, whose food production is at risk in light of current attempts at heightened corporate power over trade and agriculture.

In addition, the representative office continued to provide essential support to its hosted networks and partners. It also strived to address administrative strengthening.

Policy and Communications

Throughout 2016, IBON International produced research and other content reflecting the concerns and calls of people and social movements in the Global South. We also sustained this advocacy in communications work.

Covering the issues of the Global South

Our online communications work continued to focus on issues affecting the poor and marginalized, aside from covering news on our various engagements in development processes.

We were able to come up with infographics, two of which dealt with the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and one on the state of global environmental activism.

We also released a policy brief titled, *"The Trans-Pacific Partnership Expansion: An Expansion of Whose Agenda?"*, given the projected harmful effects of free trade agreements like the TPP to people's rights. We produced analyses on various issues in the areas of development cooperation, trade and investment, and democracy.

We have brought the perspectives of the people as we engaged the various global development processes such as the CSO Financing for Development Strategy Meeting, the 1st Financing for Development Forum, the Development Co-operation Forum's 5th Biennial High-Level Meeting, and the GPEDC 2nd High-Level Meeting.

We continue to address our communications, research work, and interventions in global processes both to the policy-makers at national, regional, and global levels and to our network of CSOs, people's organizations and social movements.

Clarifying the foundations for RBD/PPD

As part of our efforts towards a framework of Rights-based Democracy or People-Powered Democracy (RBD/PPD), we clarified our perspective through a paper titled "*Democracy Founded on People's Sovereignty*," released in June.

We also published the IBON International Strategic Plan 2016-2020 in 2016 in digital and print form, which discusses thoroughly our RBD-PPD framework for implementation, and details our theory of change towards development for the people.

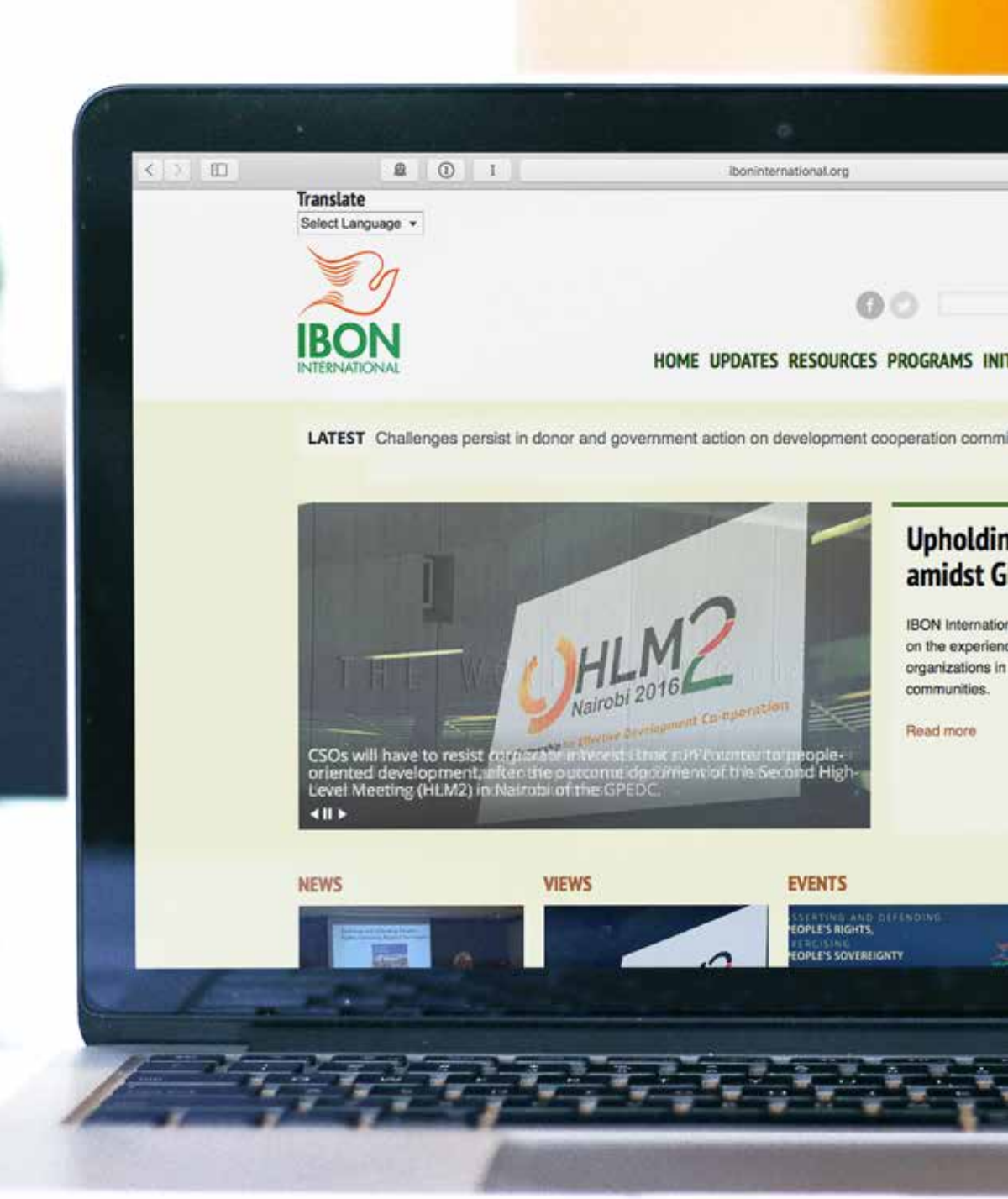
We also released the video "*IBON International: Capacity Development for the People*," which we produced to encapsulate the various work we do towards building the foundations for the people to organize themselves and engage the issues that affect them. We also produced a shorter version of the same video, which serves as an introductory video for some of our engagements.

Improvements in communications

As a way of making our website accessible to non-English speakers in the Global South, we have also included a feature that allows viewing our website in Spanish and French.

Our social media pages (facebook.com/iboninternational and @IbonInternatl), continue to assist us in expanding our reach as we use these channels to inform peoples around the world of our releases and people-oriented positions.

By the end of 2016, we have increased our Facebook likes by 20% from 2015, and our Twitter followers by 49%. The IBON International website has also seen a large increase in visitors, from an estimated 22,300 visitors in 2015 to 100,000 in 2016.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Nairobi 2016
CSOs will have to resist corporate interests that run counter to people-oriented development, after the outcome document of the Second High-Level Meeting (HLM2) in Nairobi of the GPEDC.
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Institutional Development

Aside from capacity development of peoples around the world, IBON International also conducts seminars, trainings and workshops to develop its organizational staff.

This way, the staff are able to orient work for the interests of the people, and towards our goals of inclusive development and social transformation. These activities also allow them to more effectively conduct our work in campaigning, policy advocacy, network management, and other aspects.

Internal development activities

For 2016, we were able to devote a total of 154 hours on internal development activities:

- Seminar on Rights-based Democracy (17 hours)
- Communications Training (17 hours)
- Training for Fundraising and Proposal Writing (17 hours)
- Ethics and Methods Seminar (17 hours)
- Network Management Training (17 hours)
- Seminar on Neoliberal Globalization (17 hours)
- Weekly issue-focused discussions (31 hours)
- Team-building activities (20 hours)

Special Board of Trustees Meeting in July

IBON International also held a special Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting in July, where Amy Padilla, Deputy Director of IBON International, presented highlights of the achievements and challenges throughout the past year to the BOT members.

Operational matters regarding the new IBON International program areas were also discussed, along with the proposal for a global platform on just and lasting peace, which became the initiative JustPeacePH.

New IBON International logo

As part of our continued progress as an organization, this year we introduced a new IBON International logo that evokes vibrance and history. It features an outline of a bird (or in Filipino, *ibon*) in flight, based on IBON's logo during its early years and which alludes to freedom as envisioned by our organization – the peoples' freedom from oppression, social and economic inequality, war and strife.

IBON
INTERNATIONAL

IBON International Initiatives

IBON Institute for International Development (I3D)

The IBON Institute for International Development (I3D) is our institute mandated to synthesise our knowledge on social policy, economics and development.

For 2016, the I3D assisted the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) in its global research on development cooperation, serving as the editorial team for the *2016 Global Synthesis Report on the State of Development Co-operation: Checking the Core of Effectiveness*.

I3D coordinated with civil society organizations around the world, and called for reports on the state of development commitments and outcomes in their respective countries. The Institute also reviewed the various case studies in the Global Synthesis Report and ensured that the final output is fit for publication.

Consortium for People's Development — Disaster Response

In 2016, much of the work of the Consortium for People's Development-Disaster Response (CPDDR) focused on developing capacities of people's organizations in hard-to-reach communities of the Philippines, towards reducing vulnerability and improving resiliency to natural and man-made disasters.

CPDDR has provided agricultural livelihood support, and launched community-based programs for managing and preparing for disasters, resulting in the formation of disaster preparedness committees in nine indigenous communities in Central Panay.

CPDDR has reached a total of 590 direct beneficiaries and 853 indirect beneficiaries in the communities (*barangays*) of Iloilo province throughout the year. We have also contributed in developing local governance through the formation of local people's organizations.

In addition, CPDDR, in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and Organic Farming Field Experimental Resource Station – Panay (OFFERS – Panay), provided support for the 10th TUMANDUK General Assembly.

The assembly brought to the forefront the struggles of indigenous peoples, raising the awareness of different sectors of society to issues of ancestral domain and ethnocide; development aggression in mega dam projects; the National Greening Program of the national government; the effects of militarization on human rights and IP rights; and the effects of climate change on food sovereignty.

At the international level, CPDDR actively participated in the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in New Delhi, asserting the voices of marginalized and vulnerable communities in the Philippines. The consortium strongly urged all governments to implement a people-oriented disaster risk reduction framework, and to include the most vulnerable sectors and communities in national development planning, both towards building self-reliant and resilient national economies.

JustPeacePH

In 2016, the news that peace negotiations would be re-opened between the Philippine government and the NDF-CPP-NPA (National Democratic Front-Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army) was met with expressions of support around the world. This was a positive step for peace advocates, as the Philippines is the site for the longest-running revolution in Asia. It was in this context that JustPeacePH was formed.

JustPeacePH is an international platform that supports the Philippine peace process, with a framework for building a just and lasting peace – which entails addressing the root causes of armed conflict and rests on the people's assertion of their collective rights – as the best path towards achieving the Filipino people's aspirations for economic development and social justice.

The steering committee of JustPeacePH is comprised of the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP), IBON International, the Confederation of Lawyers of Asia and the Pacific (COLAP), the International Migrants' Alliance (IMA), the International Women's Alliance (IWA), and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IWA).

A website, justpeace.ph, was launched in July 2016, with the purpose of amplifying people's cause for just and lasting peace in the international arena,

and educating and informing the international public on the Philippine peace process. JustPeacePH is also on various social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, and has reached supporters across the world, including the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Australia, Taiwan, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Spain, South Korea, Norway, and Sweden, among others.

In September, JustPeacePH held the Forum on the International Day of Peace in Belgium, with panellists from the Philippine embassy in Brussels, from the NDF and from Defend Job. In December, the platform commemorated International Human Rights Day with solidarity from supporters in Brussels and Italy.

At present, with the challenging situation of the peace talks, JustPeacePH remains active, reaching out to individuals, organizations, institutions, and governments around the world who advocate peace and people's rights.

Funding Partners

IBON International continues to manage a significant amount of pooled funds, multi-year grants and various donations. As an international NGO, we have sustained a significant degree of capacity, credibility and responsibility as seen in our broad base of support and co-operation with funding partners.

Donor/Funder	Project Title and Period
	Civil Society Continuing Campaign for Effective Development (Jan 2014 - Dec 2016)
	Civil Society Continuing Campaign for Effective Development (July 2013 - June 2016)
	Civil Society Continuing Campaign for Effective Development (July 2013 - June 2016)
	Civil Society Continuing Campaign for Effective Development (March 2014 - December 2016)
	Civil Society Continuing Campaign for Effective Development (2014 - 2016)
	Enhancing Civil Society Role in Development Partnerships Post-2015 (2016-2018)
	Enhancing effective civil society participation towards and equitable and ambitious post-2015 climate regime (2015 - mid 2016)
	Recovering, Rebuilding and Empowerment for Disaster-Resilient indigenous Peoples Communities: A Continuity Project for Tumandok Communities in Upland Central Panay, Philippines (2015-2016) Seminars on people's rights (2016)
	Seminars on trade deals & people's resistance (2016)

IBON International Financial Report

Summary Statement of Financial Performance (Income Statement)*

	Year Ended 31 December 2016	*Year Ended 31 December 2015*	*Year Ended 31 December 2014*
Incoming Resources			
Fund and Grants	3,826,139	2,114,532	1,524,977
Other Revenue	483,655	535,327	381,583
Total Resources	**4,309,794**	**2,649,859**	**1,906,560**
Resources expended			
Project/Programme expenditures	2,068,279	3,248,016	2,330,337
Administrative and Management expenditures	229,762	164,976	291,278
Total Expenditure	2,298,041	3,412,992	2,621,615
Reserve/Deficit	2,011,753	(763,133)	(715,055)

*Amounts in USD

Summary Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)*

	Year Ended 31 December 2016	*Year Ended 31 December 2015*	*Year Ended 31 December 2014*
Assets			
Fixed Assets	-		
Current Assets	2,911,444	763,782.15	1,559,177.00
Less: Current Liabilities	335,261	438,451.90	174,030.00
Net Assets	2,576,183	325,330.25	1,385,147.00
Represented By			
Unrestricted Reserve			
Restricted Reserve	2,576,183.38	325,330.25	1,385,147.00
Reserve/Deficit	2,011,753	(763,133)	(715,055)

*Amounts in USD

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