

## **Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment**

### **CSO Forum on the Environment**

#### ***“Towards a Resource Efficient and Pollution-free Asia-Pacific that Promotes Ecological Justice”***

4 September 2017

### **Background**

UN Environment, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) on behalf of Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) will host CSO Forum on the Environment on 4 September 2017 as a preparatory meeting to the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment on 5-8 September 2017.

The Ministerial Summit will bring together two regional ministerial-level conferences on the environment convened by UN agencies, the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED-7) by UN ESCAP and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific by UN Environment Asia and the Pacific Office. The Ministerial Summit aims to provide “a unified platform for Member States to review trends and identify regional perspectives and priorities in environment and development and to bring issues to the attention of the parent bodies of both secretariats.” It will carry the theme: “*Towards a resource efficient and pollution free Asia-Pacific*”.

The CSO Forum is intended to provide a platform for civil society and social movements to organize their positions and strategic inputs and *ensure that voices of marginalized sectors and grassroots are included* in the Ministerial Summit. The outcome of the CSO Forum will present a collective CSO input to the Ministerial Summit and a regional CSO input to 2017 UN Environment Assembly.

The CSO Forum will aim to:

1. Ensure the effective and meaningful participation and engagement of civil society and social movements in the Ministerial Summit;
2. Organize and provide a platform for CSO deliberation on the issues in the agenda of the Ministerial Summit and how to advance Ecological Justice;
3. Facilitate the formulation of common CSO positions and inputs to be presented in the official sessions of the Ministerial Summit and of 2017 UN Environment Assembly, in consultation with grassroots communities;
4. Ensure adequate representation and active strategic engagement in official sessions at the Ministerial Summit to strongly present the voices and views of civil society and social movements; and
5. Enable civil society and social movements to optimize the engagement with Member States and UN agencies in realizing Ecological Justice.

## Tentative Programme

<b>4 September 2017</b>	
8:30 - 9:00	<p>Opening</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome remarks by ESCAP, UN Environment, AP-RCEM</li> <li>2. Overview on objectives and processes</li> <li>3. Links between the Ministerial Summit and 2017 UN Environment Assembly by Alexander Juras, Chief, Civil Society Unit, UN Environment</li> <li>4. Video on Development Justice by AP-RCEM</li> </ol>
9:00 - 9:30	<p><i>Session 1: Systemic Barriers and Situations on Pollution and Resource Use in the Region</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate change, fracking, corporate greed, trade and investment</li> <li>2. Land, resource grabbing, agricultural pollution, militarism</li> <li>3. Patriarchy and Fundamentalism, gender vulnerabilities to pollution, access to resources of indigenous peoples, etc</li> <li>4. Energy, mining, extractive industries, and corporate greed</li> </ol>
9:30 – 9:45	<p>Snack Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Activity: Collective mural and “dot-mocracy” wall on CSO vision for resource-efficient and pollution-free Asia-Pacific</li> </ul>
9:45 - 11:00	<p><i>Session 2: Issues in Pollution and Resource-Efficiency across Ecosystems</i></p> <p>(Talk show format)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CSO Response to the UNEP Framework on Pollution</li> <li>2. Issues in Pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Air</li> <li>- Water, marine, plastic</li> <li>- Land and soil pollution</li> <li>- Militarism as crosscutting</li> <li>- Chemical, waste as crosscutting</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Movements and struggles of the people in addressing issues in pollution</li> <li>4. Vision of a Pollution Free World and Resource Efficient Asia Pacific</li> <li>5. Recommendations</li> </ol>
11:00 - 12:00	<p><i>Session 3: Challenges in Means of Implementation in Asia-Pacific</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Financing</li> <li>2. Technology</li> </ol>

	<p>3. Partnerships</p> <p>4. Campaigns and Advocacy</p>
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break
13:00 - 14:00	<p><i>Session 4: Showcase of Strategic Actions and Responses of Civil Society and Grassroots Movements</i></p> <p>1. Campaigns, advocacies and movement building</p> <p>2. Community-based initiatives on natural resource management</p>
14:00 - 16:00	Session 5: Breakout Session on Civil Society and Grassroots Proposals for a Resource-Efficient and Pollution-free Asia-Pacific
16:00-16:30	Session 6: Presentation of draft Asia-Pacific CSO Statement to the Ministerial Summit on the Environment
16:30 - 17:00	Closing Session
17:00 - 18:00	Election of Regional Representatives to 2018 UN Environment Assembly
19:00 onwards	Meeting to refine the CSO Statement