

**BUILDING NEW SOLIDARITIES:  
OUR EMANCIPATORY STRUGGLES  
WITHIN A NEW GLOBAL CONTEXT**

**ASIA EUROPE  
PEOPLE'S  
FORUM  
~ 12 ~**

**SEPTEMBER 29-30  
& OCTOBER 1, 2018  
GHENT, BELGIUM**

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## INTRODUCTION TO AEPF

The Asia Europe People's Forum (AEPF) has been holding the biennial People's Forum since 1996 when it began as a parallel initiative to the first ASEM Summit held in Bangkok. It was established as a platform and Forum to amplify people's voices on the need to respect and fulfil social, economic and human rights for all across Asia and Europe, and to highlight the importance of developing just, equal and inclusive approaches to regional integrations. For over twenty years, the People's Forum has consistently worked for meaningful civil society, Trade Union and peoples' movements' participation in the discussions and processes of ASEM and its members countries. The 12th ASEM-summit, the Heads of State and Government meeting will be held in Belgium, on October 18 and 19, 2018. Following the positive practice since 1996, the AEPF will organise a parallel interregional civil society meeting from September 29 till October 1.

## OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

The overall aim of the AEPF 12 is to understand and learn from struggles and resistances over the past two decades in Asia and Europe that have confronted and challenged neoliberalism, corporate led globalisation and global capitalism in its various phases. Peoples' groups in many Asian and European countries have developed critiques, strategies and actions to dismantle the power of corporations, realise and uphold the rights of people and communities, and reclaim the commons. They are at the forefront of movements for justice; equity; land and resource rights; peace; dismantling/ending nuclear and chemical weapons; working to fulfil the rights of migrants and other displaced peoples, defending rights, freedoms and democratic spaces. Our objectives are to analyse the challenges, the current socio-economic situations and develop and share people's alternatives. Bringing together representatives from social/peoples movements, journalists, academe and elected bodies in Asia and Europe, this Forum will reinforce regional and international solidarities, and move forward our collective agenda.

Having the Forum in the weekend will also allow us to realise one of our objectives, make a direct link with the public and citizens' initiatives in Ghent. The discussions and exchanges will result in an AEPF-Statement to be presented by AEPF-representatives at the beginning of the 2018 ASEM-summit.

## DATES AND VENUES

The Forum will be held in Belgium from Saturday, 29 September to Monday, October 1, 2018 .

The main venue is in the city centre of Ghent: HET PAND, Onderbergen 1, Ghent.

Some of the workshops will take place in venues within walking distance of Het Pand.

THAGASTE Academiestraat 1, 9000 Ghent - <http://www.thagaste.be/en/home>

VREDESHUIS: Sint-Margrietstraat 9, 900 Ghent - <https://stad.gent/openingsuren-adressen/dienst-internationale-relaties-vredeshuis>

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 2018

9.30 – 10.30AM	<p>Welcome Session</p> <p>Words of welcome by the mayor of Ghent, Mr Daniel Termont</p> <p>Words of welcome by Serge Beel, representative of 11.11.11</p> <p>Speech by Shui Meng, wife of Sombath Somphone; an internationally acclaimed community development worker who was abducted from a police checkpoint in Laos in 2012 and is still missing. Sombath was one of the main organisers of AEPF9 in Laos (2012).</p>
10.30 AM – 12.30 PM	<p>Meet Ghent and open space workshops</p> <p>See list of different workshops and activities on page 5</p>
2.00 – 6.00 PM	<p>Plenary sessions with round table discussions. Two panels will tackle current trends:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The new political "Normal": Authoritarian Regimes, Populism and Racism, Migration and Forced Displacement, Shrinking Spaces for Political Activism and Active Citizenship</li><li>2. Game-changing Challenges and Implications for Our Visions and Alternatives: The Economic Crisis, Financialization, The Digital Economy, The Climate Crisis and Just Transition</li></ol>
Speakers	<p>Speakers: Ben Hayes, Agnes Gagyi, Christos Giovanopoulos, Vrinda Grover, Walden Bello, Bonn Juego, Sivan Kartha, Asad Rehman, Matteo Gaddi, Daniela Gabor, Leida Rijnhout</p>
7.30 PM – 9.30 PM	<p>Ghent Night on New Narratives</p> <p>A public interactive AEPF-discussion on the new narrative, in the context of the new geopolitical realities of Asia and Europe. New narratives will bring forward ideas, theories and formulations rising from the grass roots and from other alternative sources, that challenge the dominant narrative.</p> <p>Speakers: Shehla Shora, Ali Wazeer, Pierre Rousset, Achin Vanaik</p>

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 2018

9AM-1PM	Open space workshops  <u>See list of different workshops and activities on page 11</u>
2.00 PM – 6.00 PM	Cluster workshops (part 1) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Climate justice and just transition (VENUE: Vredeshuis)</li><li>2. Just Trade and Corporate Accountability (VENUE: Het Pand)</li><li>3. Food sovereignty and resources justice (VENUE: Het Pand)</li><li>4. Peace and security (VENUE: Vredeshuis)</li><li>5. Democratization and human rights (VENUE: Het Pand)</li><li>6. Social justice (VENUE: Het Pand)</li></ol> <u>*** For detailed information please go to pages 5 to 10</u>
8 – 10PM	Open Solidarity Night  Programme in collaboration with the City of Ghent who recently won the EU Fair and Ethical Trade Award. Venue: Handelsbeurs

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 1 2018

9.30 AM – 12 PM	Cluster workshops (part 2)  Final session of the thematic clusters: launching calls to actions and engaging in campaigns
1.30 – 3.30 PM	The Clusters will report their calls and demands to a group of progressive Parliamentarians from Asia and Europe in a plenary session.
4 – 6.00 PM	AEPF-Statement and ways forward  The AEPF-statement will be developed through a participative process between all AEPF-members and their constituency before the AEPF-conference and will be presented to a representative of the EU.

Version September 2018

### CLIMATE JUSTICE AND JUST TRANSITION

Session 1: September 30, 14:00 - 16:00: The Goal of Keeping Rise of Global Warming to Below 1.5 Degrees: Implications for Climate Action and Systemic Alternatives

Resource Persons: Kate Dooley, Climate Land Rights Alliance; Asad Rehman, War on Want; Yaya Hidayati, WALHI/FoE Indonesia; Lidy Nacpil, Asian Peoples Movement on Debt and Development

Moderators: Jagoda Munic, Friends of the Earth Europe; Wanun Permpibul, Climate Watch Thailand

Session 2: September 30, 16:15 - 18:15: Overview of State of Play and Challenges in the Fight Against Fossil Fuels and Transformation of Energy Systems

Resource Persons: Lidy Nacpil of APMDD and the Asian Energy Network; Hannah Mckinnon, Oil Change International; Martin Mantxo, Energy Democracy movement; Lucy Cadena, FOE International; Nathan Thanki, Demand Climate Justice Campaign and Reclaim Power

Moderators: Vidya Dinker, INSAF-India; Kris Vanslambrouck, 11.11.11-Belgium

Session 3: October 1, 9:00 - 12:30 (with 15 minutes Break): Sharing of Ongoing National Struggles and Strategies for Scaling up the Fight for Energy Transformation; Affirming Common Calls and Goals Asia: Philippines (Ian Rivera), India (Sreedhar Ramamurthi), Indonesia (Yaya Hidayati), Vietnam (tbc), Thailand (Wanun Permpibul), Bangladesh (Anu Muhammad) Europe: Norway (Sillje Lundberg), Croatia (Maruska Mileta), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Duska Kudra), UK (Rachel Kennerley and Noelle Audi-Dor), Ghent local activists Moderators: Lidy Nacpil, APMDD; Nathan Thanki, DCJC

## JUST TRADE AND CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Quo Vadis Capitalism? Building our Collective Analysis for Action in Confronting Neoliberalism and Corporate Globalization in the Age of Trumpism and Brexit

Session 1, September 30, 14:00-15:00: Opening Plenary:

Is neoliberalism and corporate globalization in a state of crisis or consolidation?

Speakers: Charles Santiago (Member of the Parliament of Malaysia); Au Loong Yu Globalization Monitoring, (Hong kong); Brid Brennan, Transnational Institute (Netherlands)

Session 2, September 30, 15:00-18:00: Workshop: Nexus of trade and corporate power: old and emerging issues

Resource Persons: Investment regime: Cecilia Olivet, Transnational Institute (Netherlands); Joseph Purugganan, Focus on the Global South E-commerce/digital economy: Alex Scrivener, Global Justice Now; Olisias Gultom, Indonesia for Global Justice, Trade, Corporate Power and Human Rights: Tony Salvador, IDEALS (Philippines); Korean TNC Watch, Global Crisis (Europe & Asia) & Human Rights of Migrant and Refugee Peoples: Jille Belisario Transnational Migrant Platform-Europe (TMP-E).

Session 3, October 1, 10:00-12:00: Closing Plenary: Interactive Strategy Session: The Way Forward, Fostering Closer Coordination and linking existing campaigns

Moderators: Dorothy Guerrero, Global Justice Now; Kris Vanslambrouck, 11.11.11 (Netherlands); Rachmi Hertanti, Indonesia for Global Justice; Liz Murray, Global Justice Now; Brid Brennan, Transnational Institute (Netherlands); Joseph Purugganan, Focus on the Global South

Organisers: Indonesia for Global Justice, Focus on the Global South, 11.11.11, SOMO, Transnational Institute, FOE Europe, Global Justice Now, S2B Networks, Transnational Migrant Platform-Europe, Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power.

## FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND NATURAL RESOURCE JUSTICE

Session 1, September 30, 14:00-15:30: Panel Debate on 20 years of people's struggles for food sovereignty and resource justice

Speakers: Siti Maimunah, Mining Advocacy Network (Indonesia); Paula Gioia, European Coordination of Via Campesina (Germany); Clemente 'Enteng' Bautista (Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment); Rodion Sulyandziga, Centre for Indigenous Peoples of the North (Russia); Marthin Hadiwinata, Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional (Indonesia);

Session 2, September 30, 16.00-18.00. Two simultaneous workshops

1. Resource grabbing vs resource justice
2. New technologies: pitfalls and potentials

Session 3. 09:30 - 12:00: Cluster Plenary: Sharing the outcomes of the workshops, developing joint work programme for the cluster, and refining cluster recommendations to be shared with ASEM Parliamentarians

Organisers: Transnational Institute (Netherlands), Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee (PKRC); London Mining Network / Deep Sea Mining Campaign.

## PEACE AND SECURITY

Session 1, September 30, 14:00-16:00: Plenary: General overview of Peace and Security in Asia and Europe

Main Speakers: Cora Fabros, Stop the War Coalition (Philippines) and International Peace Bureau, (Philippines); Achin Vanaik, Transnational Institute Fellow (India); Phan Anh Son, Vietnam Institute for International and Public Diplomacy Studies; Reiner Braun, No-to-NATO (Germany), Lee Jun Kyu, Center for Peace Research of Kyoreh Hana (Korea); Joyce Meredith Anne, GPPAC/Peace Boat (Australia); Gleb Paikachev, Soldiers' Mothers of Saint-Petersburg (Russia); Bimal Pokharel, Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council

Session 2, September 30, 16:00-18:00: Workshop 1: Military threats to human security

Resource Persons:

Peace and Disarmament: People's movements: Lisa Clark, International Peace Bureau (Italy)

Territorial disputes and people's livelihood: Pham Van Chuong, Vietnam Committee for Asian-African-Latin American Solidarity and Cooperation

Military spending; military industrial complex: Jorge Calvo Rufange, Centre Delàs-IPB, Spain) Nuclear

weapons and weapons of mass destruction: Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan, Blue Banner NGO (Mongolia); Yayoi Tsuchida, Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, Gensuikyo

Threats of new war technology, fully automated drones, etc. TBC

Foreign Military bases and state military cooperation in Asia-Pacific: Jung Eun Park, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (Korea) TBC

Contributions: Fernando Antonio Da Costa, ASEAN People's Forum (Timor-Leste); Nisar Ahmed Shah, International Institution for Research and Education (Pakistan)

## **PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY, RESISTING OPPRESSIONS, RECLAIMING PEOPLES' RIGHTS, AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS**

Session 1, September 30, 14.00-15.00: Framing the Issues

Main Speakers: Vrinda Grover, Human Rights Lawyer (India); Mu Sochua, MP, Cambodia; Agnes Gagyi, University of Gothenburg in Sweden; Jille Belisario, CFMW and Transnational Migrant Platform-Europe

Session 2, September 30, 15:00-18:00: World Café Discussions on six topics on the core theme of Repression Responses Resistance involving all participants

Resource Persons: State-led repression and militarisation: Vrinda Grover; Ellecer Carlos, iDEFEND (Philippines); Yeng Virak, Grassroots Democratic Party (Cambodia); Diana Medvednikova, North Kazakhstan Legal Media Center

Speech, media, expression and discourse: Hamid Mir, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists; Seonghoon Lee, Asia Democracy Network (Korea); Agnes Gagyi, University of Gothenburg

Gender and sexualities: Nasreen Contractor, Keshav Gore Smarak Trust, (India); Jelen Paclarin, Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau, (Philippines); Petra Snelders – RESPECT Network Europe  
Environment, land and resources: Farooq Tariq, Pakistan Kissan Rabita; Paul Sein Twa, Karen Environmental Social Action Network (Burma/Thailand); Renato Diocton, Western Samar - Marine Biodiversity (Philippines); Marie-Sol Reindl, Code Rood (Germany)

Culture, identity and ideology: Dr. Farzana Bari, Center of Excellence in Gender Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University (Pakistan); Haris Azhar, Lokataru /Jentera Law School (Indonesia); Tobias Stadler and/or Aaron Bruckmiller, IL - Interventionistische Linke (Austria)

Migration and othering: Pamela Philipose, South Asia Women in Media (India); Ros Sokunthy, Focus on the Global South; Driss El Korchi, Plateforme Euro-Morocaine (Morocco); Christos Giovanopoulos, (Greece)

Session 3, October 1, 9.00 – 12.00: Collective Strategies Solidarity and Actions. The discussions will build on three parallel roundtables involving all participants.

Moderators and Rapporteurs: Andy Rutherford, Fresh Eyes (UK); Raquel Castillo, Laban ng Masa (Philippines); Tur-Od Lkhagvajav, Transparency International (Mongolia)/Asia Democracy Network; Niels Jongerius, Transnational Institute (Netherlands); Varsha Rajan Berry, Keshav Gore Smarak Trust (India); Jille Belisario, CFMW, Transnational Migrant Platform-Europe (TMP-E) and Brid Brennan, Transnational Institute (Netherlands)

Organisers: Focus on The Global South, Fresh Eyes (UK), Laban ng Masa (Philippines), Transparency International (Mongolia)/Asia Democracy Network, Keshav Gore Smarak Trust (India), Pakistan Kissan Rabita (Pakistan), Transnational Institute (Netherlands)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sunday, 30 September, Plenary Meeting : 14:00 – 16:00

### Social Justice and System Change

Speakers: Francine Mestrum (Belgium), Erik Edman (Greece), Bonn Juego (Finland/Philippines), Benoit Borrits (France), Karamat Ali (Pakistan), Charles Santiago, MP (Malaysia)

Round Table 1: 16:00 – 18:00

### Resource Mobilisation for Social Justice: Debt, Tax and Fiscal Justice –

Making the links work for universal and comprehensive social protection

Speakers: Mae Buenaventura (Philippines), Stephen Kidd (United Kingdom), Noel Colina (Hong Kong/Philippines), David Boys (France), Tove Maria Ryding (Denmark), Ahsanul Karim (Bangladesh), Marguerite Lopez (Philippines), Sushovan Dhar (India)

Monday, 1 October, Round Table 2: 9.30 to 12:00 noon

### Social Justice and Social Protection

Speakers: Tina Ebro (Netherlands/Philippines), Sian Jones (Ireland), Ramesh Badal (Nepal), Erik Vilanueva (Philippines), Chandan Kumar (India), Maris dela Cruz (Philippines)

Rayyan Hassan (Bangladesh), Salim Mohammed, MP (India)

Organisers: ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights, Asia Monitor Resource Center, Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development, CADTM (Belgium), Eurodad, Freedom from Debt Coalition (Philippines), Global Social Justice, Institute for Popular Democracy (Philippines), Network For Transformative Social Protection, NGO Forum on Asian Development Bank, Tax And Fiscal Justice Alliance In Asia, World Solidarity Movement.

## AEPF12: MEET GHENT & OPEN SPACE WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

Venue: HET PAND (Onderbergen 1, 9000 Ghent - <https://www.ugent.be/het-pand/en/contact>)

Session hours: 10h30AM – 1 PM

1. MEET GHENT: The side effects of trade agreements
2. MEET GHENT: New Migrants in the city
3. MEET GHENT: Climate Action Now
4. MEET GHENT: The untold story of Calais (informal refugee camp in France)
  
5. Making GSP+ Work: Towards a Human Rights Compliant Philippines  
ORGANISERS: Philippine Alliance for Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA), In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement (iDEFEND) and Geneva Forum for Philippine Concerns.
  
6. Palm Oil: Solidarity along the Global Production Network between Europe and Asia  
ORGANISERS: Asienhaus, 11.11.11, Sawit Watch
  
7. When Food Becomes Immaterial: Confronting the Digital Age  
ORGANISERS: La Via Campesina, Focus on the Global South, FIAN Belgium, FIAN International, PPSS, India and Odisha Forum for social Action, India

SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

Venue: HET PAND (Onderbergen 1, 9000 Ghent - <https://www.ugent.be/het-pand/en/contact>)

Session 1 (9-11 AM)

1. Thailand: Never-ending Repression, Promised Election and Restauration of Democracy  
ORGANISERS: Stiftung Asienhaus (Germany), Thailand Human Rights Campaign UK (United Kingdom), Thai Democrats without Borders (France), Assembly of the Poor (Thailand).
  
2. Building Solidarity in Ensuring State and Corporate Accountability and Advancing People-Centred Development Cooperation  
ORGANISERS: People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty, IBON Europe, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, Asian Peasant Coalition
  
3. Korean Peninsula: Recent Progress and New Hope for Peace  
ORGANISERS: Peace and Security Cluster, Kim Dae-Jung Peace Center, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy Seoul, Gensuikyo, International Peace Bureau
  
4. Struggles against ISDS cases: experiences from campaigns in Europe and Asia  
ORGANISERS: Transnational Institute, Indonesia for Global Justice, Focus on the Global South

SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

Venue: HET PAND (Onderbergen 1, 9000 Ghent - <https://www.ugent.be/het-pand/en/contact>)

Session 2 (11AM – 1PM)

Defending Public Health Against Corporate Greed

ORGANISERS: WomanHealth, AMRC, Trade Justice Philipinas

Making Corporate Mining Accountable

ORGANISERS: International People's Conference on Mining (IPCM), Yes to Life No to Mining, Europe, Solidagro, IBON Europe, Gaia Foundation, London Mining Network, Kalikasan People's Network for Environment

The New Face of Globalization and New Model of Capitalism Monopoly

ORGANISERS: Transform Europe, Indonesia for Global Justice

SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

Venue: THAGASTE (Academiestraat 1, 9000 Ghent - <http://www.thagaste.be/en/home>)

Session hours: 9AM – 1 PM

The right to Social Protection for All: Strengthening the right to social protection for vulnerable people in Asia & Europe

ORGANISERS: Asia network on the right to social protection (ANRSP), Asian round table on social protection (AROSP), Network for transformative social protection (NTSP) and Asia Europe Labour Forum (AELF)

Systemic Alternatives in Action

ORGANISERS: ATTAC France, Focus on the Global South

China's Belt and Road Initiative

ORGANISERS: TNI, GJN, Monitoring Sustainability of Globalisation (MSN), Asienhaus

Enforced Disappearances and Extra-judicial killings - Impunity or Accountability

ORGANISERS: Focus on the Global South, Fresh Eyes

## GAME-CHANGING CHALLENGES IN OUR GLOBAL CONTEXT

Everyday millions of women, men and children across Asia and Europe are living in conditions of growing inequalities, and precarious livelihoods. They experience a more aggressive, divisive, exploiting and excluding neo-liberal globalisation that is systematically destroying livelihood and ecological systems. Forced migration is also a growing reality for millions of people.

Statistical economic growth has been founded on the growing desecration and destruction of our Commons, our resources, our environment, our climate. Our Climate crisis has demonstrated a quick destruction of many species, as historical injustices on climate policies continue. Our governments' have erased progressive calls to protect the planet and protect the people. We expect an urgent and people centred collective and national responses for framing our futures.

The new phase of neo-liberal globalisation based on control of intellectual and material resources has hastened the pace of corporate capture of legal and political processes. 'New technologies', 'new economics' and 'new ways of communicating' are more of the same, marked by the continuous destruction of many public services and their privatisation. This has led to a crisis in the ability of elected representatives, governments, to fulfil their supposed responsibilities to their citizens, which has polarised people and created an atmosphere of partisan politics that threatened to tear societies apart.

We are in a world of insiders and outsiders, of a concentration of power and wealth and of the regime of the corporations. Divided and dividing economies have increasingly consolidated dividing and divisive politics.

A growing number of countries across Asia and Europe are experiencing more authoritarian and excluding politics. In many countries, the space and freedom of people to express their concerns to their elected representatives at local and national levels is being systematically limited, restricted and threatened. Summarised as shrinking democratic spaces, this translated as an exclusion and suppression of Fundamental Human Rights, Voices, and the Rights to organise, mobilise and demonstrate. This trend that already existed in some authoritarian states has now traversed into managed democracies.

AEPF12 provides a unique space to share and discuss these lived experiences and how people, communities and social movements are responding by developing and taking forward alternatives essential for more just, equal and inclusive communities, countries and even regions.

For more information about AEPF:

Website: [www.aepf.info](http://www.aepf.info)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/asiaeuropepeoplesforum](https://www.facebook.com/asiaeuropepeoplesforum)

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