

Enhancing Access to Justice on Economic and Social Rights

4th August 2016, 4.15 pm – 6.15 pm. Dili Convention Center (Centru Convensaun Dili/CCD), Dili, Timor-Leste

Organised by: IWRAP Asia Pacific, Women's Aid Organisation (WAO), Asistencia Legal ba Feto no Labarik (ALFeLa), Forum-Asia, NGO Coalition for the OP-ICESCR, and Southeast Asia Caucus on the ASEAN



The inequalities that continue to exist within Southeast Asia are made worse by emergence of newer contexts such as disasters and conflict, economic and trade liberalization, the growth of the capitalist market economy, and increased privatization of basic services etc. Additionally issues such as displacement, lack of natural resources and access to public service facilities, feminization of poverty and re-victimization of women in the existing contexts of non-recognition of their fundamental rights results in complex violations of human rights.

However, the protections available within the ASEAN community blueprints and in domestic policies do not reflect the normative standards and protections in international human rights laws, and particularly in the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights. This is despite the fact that 7 ASEAN member States have also already ratified the ICESCR.

This panel invites input from civil society to discuss economic and social rights violations taking place nationally in the region, and will discuss the importance of the ICESCR framework in enhancing standards within ASEAN. The workshop also aims to share information regarding the Optional Protocol to ICESCR as a key mechanism to strengthen access to justice, the wider advantages of ratification, and opportunities and strategies in joining the regional and global campaign for ratification.

Panel Topics and Panelist

Violations and challenges of protecting ESC rights in ASEAN
Chang Jordan, Women's Legal Bureau Philippines (TBC)

International and Regional Standards on ESC rights within the ASEAN region
Titi Soentoro, ^{Text}AKSI Indonesia

Enhancing access to justice through OP ICESCR
Ivahanna Larrosa, ESCR-Net-Coordination of NGO Coalition for the OP-ICESCR video-conference

Strategising on an ASEAN ratification campaign of OP ICESCR
Wathshlah Naidu, IWRAP Asia Pacific