

# Reflections on the Asia and the Pacific Stakeholders' Dialogue on European Development Cooperation

**Maria Theresa Nera-Lauron**  
*Asia Pacific Research Network*  
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# OUTLINE

## ***1. The Regional Dialogue***

- objectives
- process
- programme

## ***2. Outcomes of the dialogue***

## ***3. Ways forward: Policy Forum on Development Asia and the Pacific***

## Objectives of the *Regional Dialogue*

- Develop **knowledge and awareness** on EU development cooperation policies;
- **Facilitate dialogue** among and between stakeholder groups and put forward recommendations on key themes of the EU Development Cooperation policies and strategies in Asia and the Pacific, and;
- **Gather recommendations and support** from the stakeholders in planning the **direction and operations of the PFD- Asia and the Pacific.**

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## ***The Regional Dialogue***

- Supported by the European Commission
- Organized in Bali, Indonesia from October 3-5, 2013
- Participated in by 31 representatives from: NGOs, trade unions (TU), private sector, and local authorities (LA)
- We came from 18 countries from Asia and the Pacific
- From the European Union, also present was Ms. Salima Chitalia
- EU Delegation to Indonesia Head of Cooperation Mr. Franck Viault (by Skype)



# Programme Design

## Day 1: Context-setting

- Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities and Challenges in Development Cooperation
- Reflections on impacts of EU Development Policies

## Day 2: The region and EU Development Cooperation

- European Development Cooperation and the Promotion of Enabling Environment
- EU Thematic Programme 'CSOs and LAs' (2014-2020)

## Day 3: Policy Forum on Development and PFD-Asia & the Pacific



# Outcomes of the *Dialogue*

## Key points of panel presentations

### 1. Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities and Challenges in Development Cooperation

*a. Complex duality* of the region : (1) high growth in some economies ; and (2) the deepening poverty and inequality including gender gaps in China, and the rest of Asia and the Pacific.

a. Political structures are very diverse in the region, there are democracies, military rules and monarchies

a. Development programs are not sustainable, oftentimes short-lived

b. Partnership 'deficits'



# Outcomes of the *Dialogue*

## Key points of panel presentations

### 2. Reflections on impacts of EU Development Policies

a. EU aid is **highly fragmented still**. The bureaucracy of this fragmentation distracts from the core work of administering the country and providing public services.

a. EU aid falls short in achieving target of providing 0.7% of gross national income (GNI), and remains as ***tied aid***.

***a. Policy incoherence***

b. Concerns raised on EU-ASEAN FTA impact on sub-region



# Outcomes of the *Dialogue*

## Key points of panel presentations

### 3. European Development Cooperation and the Promotion of Enabling Environment

a. Labor situation is worrisome – job insecurity, labor contractualization, violation of workers' rights and labour laws, income inequality on the rise.

b. EU's key role in human rights advocacy in the Philippines during the term of then-Pres. Arroyo. Human rights advocates expressed concern on the recent pronouncement of 'satisfaction' of the EUD with human rights sit.

a. Seeming 'disconnect' between EU headquarters with country delegations, esp. in Pacific. CSO relation to the EU delegation back home is quite limited to giving information on calls for proposals.

b. Process of accessing EU support to CSO activities and processes are too technical



# Outcomes of the *Dialogue*

**Plenary response (what is development? Development cooperation? Identify key areas of EU intervention)**

## **1.Sub-regional workshop**

### **a.PACIFIC**

- Development should be holistic, and not just about economic development.
- They also echoed the need to have a Pacific-specific process
- Need to focus on youth development, gender, conservation and environment, and climate change

### **b. SOUTH ASIA**

- Development should be about the improvement and well-being of all people through participatory planning to ensure reducing poverty and inequality.
- Cooperation,, should ensure that all stakeholders are part of a platform working together.
- 5 areas of intervention and engagement for the EU: (a) Good Governance: (b) Public services/ Healthcare, education, sanitation/Municipal services; © Core labor standards/ Decent work condition in formal and informal sectors; (d) Development of women and vulnerable groups/ elimination of exploitation and violence, and; (e) Rights-based livelihood.

# Outcomes of the *Dialogue*

## Plenary response

### c. NORTH/CENTRAL ASIA

- Development is about the improvement of people's lives, and increasing living standards, with focus on gender equality and the human welfare index.
- Key areas of intervention and engagement for the EU: (a) continuing issues of water management, (b) drug trafficking; © human rights; (d) agriculture; (e) education, and (f) poverty reduction

### d. SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Development should be people-centered, while development cooperation should be about inclusive partnerships.
- Key areas of intervention : (a) EU ODA and double-counting of climate finance; (b) coherence of EU policies that promote poverty eradication and human rights on the one hand, and yet promote trade liberalization and regional economic integration on the other;
  - (c) security in relation to civil and political rights of the citizens; and (d) the implication of the Agenda for Change to middle income countries which still have massive poverty and inequality.

## Ways Forward for PFD-A/P

The proposed objectives of the regional PFD:

*Proposed general objective:* To facilitate open and multi-stakeholder, but more importantly, people centered and bottom-up engagement processes **on** EU development policies in the region

*Specifically, PFD -AP aims to:*

- Increase the participation of all stakeholders and engage them with the issue of development cooperation; and
- Identify the areas of concern and interventions for EU development cooperation.



## Ways Forward for PFD-A/P

- The regional forum has also identified some activities that will feed in its work plan. These are subdivided into different areas of work, maximizing the scope and extent of its initial planning.

- Research, Education and Communications work
- Advocacy and engagement
- Outreach

- Structure and operations

- Country level: National level process should ensure participation of major networks that are grassroots oriented and not limited to EU partners

- Stakeholder level

- Sub regional level

# Key questions from Regional Dialogue

\* Development for whom?

\* Whose Agenda?

\* What change?

\* What next?



## Policy Forum on Development – Asia and the Pacific



Terima Kasih! Thank you very much!