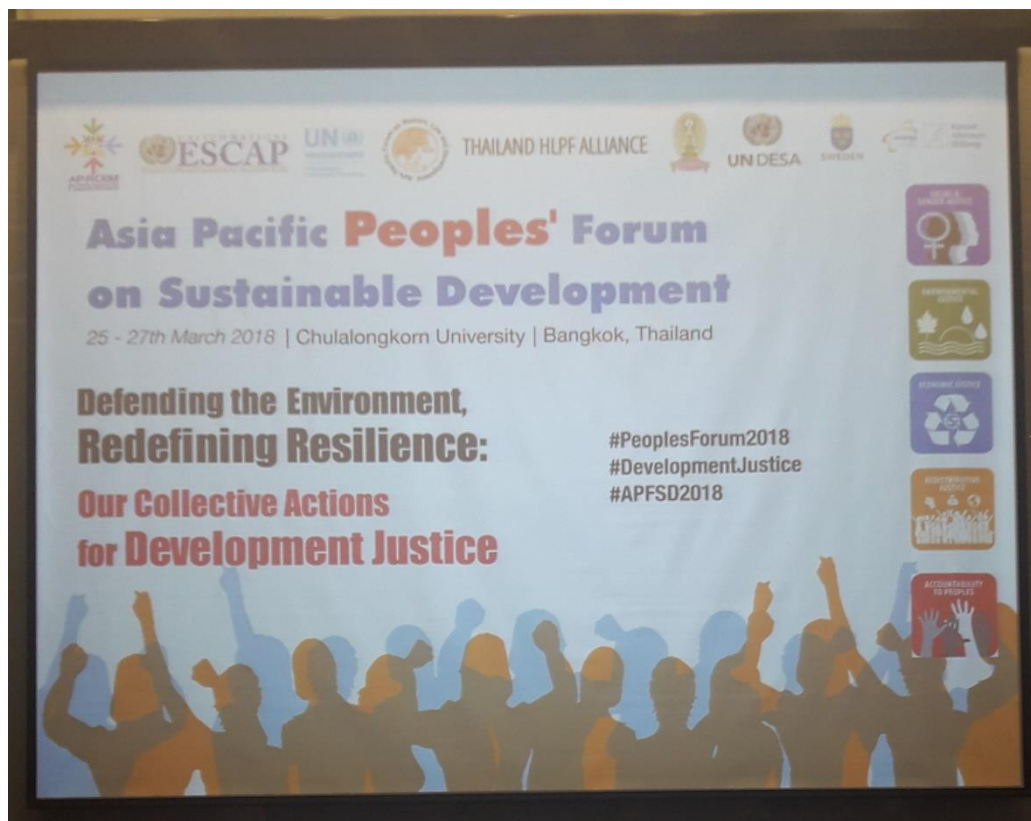**Elvira B. Lapuz**
IFLA Associate
International Leaders' Programme 2016-2018
eblapuz@up.edu.ph

Highlights

Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development 2018

Attended the Asia pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development held at the Chulalongkorn University 25-27 March 2018. #PeoplesForum #DevelopmentJustice #APFSD2018

The Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development was organized by civil society (the secretariat represented by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development as a coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)), in collaboration with the ESCAP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) as a preparatory meeting for the APFSD.
The Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development 2018 s a forum for civil society organizations to work together and consolidate their positions and recommendations for a regional sustainable development agenda. Asia-Pacific CSOs from different sectors and countries will explore common ground and actions, develop common messages and coordinate strategies for more effective

participation in the national, regional and global intergovernmental processes on sustainable development.

The CSO Forum invites applications from nationally registered civil society organizations to work with others to:
1. Foster the sharing and learning from the variety of experiences of organizations and constituencies and to enhance capacity of civil society participants on sustainable development at the national, regional and global levels, and on the opportunities and modalities for engaging
2. these processes, including identifying and dealing with key systemic issues/barriers to the achievement of sustainable development;
3. To help build an understanding of sustainable development as a comprehensive whole with strong inter-linkages across its various dimensions and components; therefore to also link the work of various other CSO campaigns, peoples' movements, grassroot constituencies, scientific and academic communities across national borders;
4. Dialogue on the structure and content of the APFSD with its theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and Pacific" as well as UNEA-4, formulate joint positions, as well as strategize interventions at the APFSD, HLPF, UNEA-4 and other processes; and;
5. Reflect on the work of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism and agree on joint actions and follow up to civil society positions adopted to strengthen and support each other's ideas, plans and actions across national borders.
Source: http://www.unescap.org/events/apcsfsd5

I attended the Workshop on **Technology Assessment Platform in Asia-Pacific: Integrating Technology** Justice in the 2030 Agenda Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group), Science and Technology Constituency and with me is Feny Cosico is the secretary general of the group Agham, an organization of scientists and engineers who advocate for science and technology for the people. They train peasant communities on sustainable agricultural practices.

In this workshop I took note of the following points:
Systemic issues around Technology for SDGs
1. Alienation (Technology by whom?) top down decisions on technology, absence of democratic governance of tec
2. High tech fixation (Which technologies?) lack of recognition and support for indigenous knowledge systems and local innovations
3. Technology for control (technology for whom?) as a means to assert and reinforce control over resources and people

4. Corporate concentration (through which means?) enabled by intellectual property rights (IPR), trade rules, standards

5. Technology as "neutral"

** I also attended the workshop on Strategies for Communicating Our Movements Effectively Organized by: APWLD, Communication Working Group of APRCEM. This workshop aims to build capacity of grassroots movements, civil society organizations and human rights defenders to bridge the gap between movements and issues they work on and media advocacy. Learnings from this workshop include tactics for strategic media advocacy, pitching news stories, making journalists allies, using social media and creating media campaigns to amplify voice and agenda.

Met the representative from the Philippines Ms. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Assistant Secretary, Social Development Office, National Economic and Development Office (NEDA), Philippines

The National Economic and Development Authority is the country's premier socioeconomic planning body, highly regarded as the authority in macroeconomic forecasting and policy analysis and research. It provides high-level advice to policymakers in Congress and the Executive Branch. Its key responsibilities include:

a. Coordination of such activities as the formulation of policies, plans and programs to efficiently set the broad parameters for national and sub-national (area-wide, regional and local development);
b. Review, evaluation, and monitoring of infrastructure projects identified under the Comprehensive and Integrated Infrastructure Program (CIIP) consistent with the government's thrust of increasing investment spending for the growing demand on quality infrastructure facilities; and
c. Undertaking of short-term policy reviews to provide critical analyses of development issues and policy alternatives to decision-makers.

Source: http://www.neda.gov.ph/

Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2018

At the APFSD 2018, I was able to attend to the following side events:

1. **Why People Matter in Implementing the 2030 Agenda: Community best practices and lessons in building resilience towards the SDGs**
   Date: Wednesday, 28 March 2018
   Venue: Meeting Room H, 1st floor UNCC
   Time: 12:00 – 13:30
   Organizers: Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) / United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangkok Regional Hub / UN ESCAP Social Development Division (SDD) / Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Societies

2. **Human rights and the 2030 Agenda: Unleash the potential of Goal 17's focus on partnerships and participation to promote human rights and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals**
   Date: Thursday, 29 March 2018
   Venue: Public Foyer, Ground Floor UNCC
   Time: 12:00 – 13:30
   Organizers: Government of Denmark, UN Development Group Asia-Pacific Human Rights Network / Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) / Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) / Indigenous Peoples' Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG)

3. **Empowering scientists in the Asia-Pacific region to support the SDGs**
   Date: Thursday, 29 March 2018
   Venue: Meeting Room H, 1st floor UNCC
   Time: 13:00 – 14:00
   Organizers: Asian national science academies/ Association of Academies and Societies of Science in Asia (AASSA) Inter academy Partnership (IAP)

4. **Launch of: "Partnering for Sustainable Development: Guidelines for Multi-stakeholder Partnerships to Implement the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific"**
   Date: Thursday, 29 March 2018
   Venue: Theater, Ground Floor, UNCC
   Time: 17:15 – 18:30
   Organizers: UN ESCAP / United Nations University – Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU – IAS)

5. **ICT for Transformation and Resilience**
   Date: Friday, 30 March 2018
   Venue: Meeting Room A, 1st floor UNCC
   Time: 08:30 – 10:00
   Organizers: UN ESCAP ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction (IDD)

6. **Participatory Approaches for Resilience – Ideas and Experiences from a Meeting of Regional Partners in the Asia-Pacific**
   Date: Friday, 30 March 2018
   Venue: Engagement Space, 1st floor UNCC
   Time: 11:30 – 12:30
   Organizers: Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) / Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok and The DO School

   ** Indeed, an interesting session with participants from civil society organizations. A workshop that teaches how to make and defend a stand about specific issues, all related to promoting and implementing SDGs.

7. **Social Innovations for Social Change: An Alternate Pathway for Creating an Enabling Environment for Sustainable and Resilient Communities**
   Date: Friday, 30 March 2018
   Venue: Meeting Room E, 1st floor UNCC
   Time: 13:00 – 14:00
   Organizers: Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) / TU Dortmund University - Social Research Centre / UNDP Thailand – Thailand Social Innovation Platform / UN ESCAP Environment and Development Division (EDD)

**I also attended the meeting with Thai Librarians Association on March 25, 2018 wherein the following Agenda were covered:

AGENDA

1. Possible collaboration of TLA & PLAI in research and other projects
    - on Research
      - TLA can assign those who are interested to conduct research on competencies, emerging trends, LIS education
    - LIS education history and development, use of documentary research, both in Thai and English
    - research collaboration, librarians competencies, comparative studies, emerging trends in librarianship, LIS education, career progression research
    - leadership training fro emerging leaders of both PLAI and TLA
    - Mike discussed the PLAI Leadership Convergence, RA 9246, other concerns covered in the Leadership convergence
      - history and development of library associations

2. Career progression issues and ASEAN Integration
    - differences in laws and requirements
    -
3. Exchange of faculty/visits on the job training of students
    - through COHDLIS
    - Dr. Sornito as coordinator
    - coordination with Library schools
    - TLA
    - exchange of best practices of library associations
    - invite TLA to the Library Leadership Convergence in June and the PLAI NBOT Meeting
    - invite Filipino librarians to be members of TLA

4. Qualification of professional base on Mutual Recognition Agreement