“Fit for Purpose?: Forwarding the localization agenda to address the conflict and climate crises in the Asia-Pacific region”

Side Event: 10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development
March 29, 11:00-12:15 GMT+7

Organizer(s)
Reality of Aid-Asia Pacific

Co-organizer(s)
North-East Affected Area Development Society, Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organisations, Coastal Development Partnership, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness-Asia

Registration

Background
The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of local actors as first responders to emerging crises. For assistance to be effective, efficient and impactful, development actors have been calling for the localization of aid and development processes as a crucial initiative in forwarding Goal 17 or partnerships for the goals. As power and financing remain in the hands of donor countries, multilateral institutions and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), there is a need to empower and enhance capacities of local actors to adapt to the pandemic, increasing conflict, exacerbating inequalities and worsening climate emergency.

In the Asia-Pacific, the localization agenda is undertaken and promoted by various development actors in different levels and aspects of work. Local civil society organizations have been designing, implementing and monitoring
community-based initiatives in addressing conflict and the climate crisis. The donor community has pursued decentralization of processes and finances to their local partners doing conflict and climate work. The United Nations have pursued the localization of SDGs, through the Voluntary Local Reviews, to promote local ownership of development priorities.

The call for localization can only be possible through the strengthening of multi-stakeholder partnerships, as donors, INGOs and multilateral institutions provide the necessary support and spaces to local and community-based organizations in addressing the complex impacts of conflict and climate.

**Key Questions and Outcomes**

This side-event will unpack the following points:

1. **How have CSOs promoted local and innovative solutions to the nexus of conflict and climate crisis in their own communities?** How were they able to localize climate-resilient and Triple Nexus approaches in their work? What challenges did they face?
2. **How is the donor community taking steps towards decentralizing and localizing its processes?** How have these contributed to enhancing partnerships for the goals and responses to the conflict and climate crisis? What else needs to be done?
3. **How have multilateral institutions, especially the United Nations, promoted the localization of Agenda 2030?** How have these initiatives further promoted multi-stakeholder partnerships across the country and the region to ensure sufficient support to local responses to the conflict and climate crisis?
4. **How can development actors from all levels promote localization and genuine inclusive partnerships to address the impacts of conflict and climate change on marginalized communities in the region?**

At the end of the event, the participants will gain a deeper understanding on the localization agenda, especially on its contribution in addressing the challenges of conflict and climate change, and the role of development actors and partnerships in providing support to local actors. The side event will also offer participants an opportunity to learn and exchange about translating global localisation commitments into practice in the Asia-Pacific region. The side-event aims to bring together various development actors in the region to discuss their various initiatives surrounding localization, and to foster dialogue on how these can be further strengthened and improved.
## Programme

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:10 am</td>
<td>Introduction of the side-event</td>
<td>Tala Batangan (Reality of Aid-Asia Pacific)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:10-11:40 am</td>
<td>Panel 1: Critical review of the localization agenda</td>
<td>Curt Garrigan (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), Joana Villaflor (Start Network), Jahangir Hasan Masum (Coastal Development Partnership)</td>
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<td>(30 minutes, 5-7 minutes per speaker)</td>
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<td>11:40-11:55 am</td>
<td>Panel 2: CSO experience in the localization agenda</td>
<td>Emeline Siale Ilolahia (Pacific Islands Association for Non-governmental Organisations), Tirtha Prasad Saikia (North-East Affected Area Development Society)</td>
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<td>(15 minutes, 5-7 minutes per speaker)</td>
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<td>11:55-12:10 pm</td>
<td>Facilitated Discussion</td>
<td>Tala Batangan (Reality of Aid-Asia Pacific)</td>
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<td>12:10-12:15 pm</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
<td>Chinara Aitbaeva (Nash Vek/ CPDE Asia)</td>
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