

WORKSHOP

"Building an Asian community of practice on monitoring and budget analysis"

09-11 July 2007 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Organized by SILAKA and Social Watch
in collaboration with OXFAM- Novib/KIC

PARTICIPANT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

SYSTEMATIZATION OF EXPERIENCES

To be submitted before 3 July, 2007

Congratulations on being selected to participate in the workshop. Since this workshop is based on the exchange of knowledge contained in specific practices, please fill in this form as fully as possible so that we can make the most of it. If you have any queries about how to complete it, do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

I. Personal and Contact Information

(Please check your personal and contact data)

Gender | F | | | |

Name(s) | Ranee

Surname (s) | Hassarungsee

Nationality | Thai

Name of the Organization/Movement/Community (and Acronym)

Social Agenda Working Group (Social Watch Thailand)

II. Description of experiences and selection of a practice:

Please answer the following questions. Use the necessary space.

What is a practice?

We understand a practice to be a process, strategy or activity of an organisation or a group of organisations to achieve social change. A practice may vary from an agricultural technique or an educational method to more complex processes like international coalition building. Its scope may be limited, but it may also correspond to entire projects or programmes.

1. ¿Which are the principal fields of expertise of your organization? (E.g., social development, human rights, budget monitoring, sexual and reproductive rights, etc)

social development

2. ¿Which are the main strategies used in your organization? (E.g., education, research, campaigning, advocacy, lobbying, satisfaction of specific demands, etc.)

education, research, knowledge approach.

3. Among the activities and experiences of your organization, please chose one you consider relevant to be transmitted to the other participants. The practice selected should be a specific action, plan, intervention or process in one of the four topics that will be explored in the workshop (ESCR, Budget analysis, monitoring, advocacy). And you should be able to divide it into the following elements:

a. Summary of the practice (no more than 5 lines, please).

ESCR, The Social Agenda Working Group attempted to seek information and truth about the violence in the three southernmost provinces. At the same time, the group established allied networks and supported academics and students affiliated with various academic institutions to co-work with community leaders to find alternative solutions to the problems. New generation academics have been encouraged to choose their study topics that will improve the tension and reduce conflicting parties' distrust and desire to use violence. Exchanges of knowledge and experiences among relevant agencies and individuals have also been conducted to analyze the information and disseminate to the wider society to provide social space to find facts about the three southernmost provinces.

b. Motivation: Situation or problem that the practice aimed to resolve.

1. Thai society was having trouble with cultural diversity and different ideologies. It was necessary to understand the complexity of the problems.

2. Thai society did not understand the three southern border provinces adequately. The social and cultural settings of these provinces were drastically and violently changing. At the core of the problems was the fact that society did not pay enough attention to the local people whose culture and religion were different. It could not distinguish the urban and rural communities. Neither could it see the relationship between the rural Muslim majority and the urban people. Nor could it see the internal relations and disputes between different generations of people. It could not see how the traditional structure underpinning Muslim communities had been replaced by external social structure and how the local culture and resources had been invaded by outsiders.

c. Objective(s)

peacebuilding

d. Strategies used to solve the problem or situation.

To mitigate the problems and create peaceful well-being in the three southern provinces, the Social Agenda Working Group thus focused on:

1. Building a horizontal relationship among people, collaborative activities participated by local communities and those shared by communities in the three southern provinces and wider society, so that "people would get to know each other" more and become less prejudiced; this could contribute to their peaceful coexistence;

2. Providing alternative solutions to the problems by allowing the majority people to participate and voice their wider, deeper and diverse perspectives so that society could seek and learn a new thinking and understand the ordinary people's ideological pursuits on a continuous basis; no instant success formula was available for such complex problems related to distrustful

local majority people, who were keen on suing violence; and

3. Communicating with the areas outside the three southern provinces or the wider Thai society was essential because such external factors as the decision-making process, the authorities' authoritarian culture, public policy process and the mass media's one-sided presentation of the situation, have caused these problems. More space should be given to different thinking, opinions and assumptions so that a joint social learning could be created and the public was urged to participate in tackling the problems of the three southern provinces in a peaceful manner. It appears that it is even more necessary now to create a social environment conducive to reconciliation.

e. Resources (financial, human, materials, etc.).

Local funding agency.

f. Level of action (local, national, regional and/or international, and if there are any relations among them)

All levels

g. Brief description of the process (main activities, beneficiaries, when and where it was carried out, methodology, collaboration with partners, etc.).

See Strategies

h. Main results and changes made during the implementation (if it is still running, please comment on the potential outcomes, obstacles, etc.)

More clear picture about the situation.

3 Evaluation of the Practice.

1. What is the general evaluation of the practice? Was the practice successful in achieving the objectives stated? Was the situation/problem resolved?

*The problem is very complicate.
The process of peacebuilding just started.*

2. What were the key factors for success or failure?

People participation in all levels.

3. What are the major lessons learned?

Cross cultural learning is important