

NOC consultation-dialogue with heads of ASEAN Pillars

As part of ACSC/APF efforts to pursue continuing dialogue between the civil society organizations and ASEAN bodies, a consultation-dialogue was held between members of the ACSC/APF National Organizing Committee and the heads of the ASEAN Pillars on October 13, 2017. The event that took place at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Manila was arranged by the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs. Present on behalf of ASEAN were SOM Chair - DFA Undersecretary Enrique Manalo, SOCA Chair - DSWD Usec. Florita Villar, SEOM Chair - DTI Asec. Anna Maria Diaz-Robeniol, and Thailand Permanent Representative to ASEAN Amb. Phasporn Sangasubana.

The chair of ACSC/APF Regional Steering Committee and NOC co-convenor Jelen Paclarin led the Philippines CSOs present at the dialogue. The CSOs reiterated their long-standing call for ASEAN to institute mechanisms for greater participation of civil society organizations in discussions affecting them, both at the national and regional governmental processes. Consultations and feedback sessions with CSOs should also be done by ASEAN before and after its high level meetings. Other issues raised were on social dimension in ASEAN integration, access to information especially pertaining to trade negotiations especially on RCEP, on gender mainstreaming (SOGIE) and final realization of framework instrument on migrant workers. Among the CSOs present were: ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas, Center for Migrant Advocacy, Community and Family Services International, Dignidad, Freedom from Debt Coalition, Foundation for Media Alternatives, Network for Transformative Social Protection, PhilWomen on ASEAN, and Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau.