



What is ACSC/APF?

ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ ASEAN Peoples' Forum (ACSC/APF)

The ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ ASEAN Peoples' Forum (ACSC/APF) is a solidarity gathering of diverse civil society organizations (CSOs) in Southeast Asia, which organizes its own parallel activities during the ASEAN Summit. It is a broad civil society movement on ASEAN issues that has a strong mandate in representing and strengthening ASEAN peoples' voices. For the past 11 years, it remains a strategic platform for CSOs to engage ASEAN member states and mechanisms.

In this meeting, CSOs bring up broad issues from different sectors and concerns, such as human rights, development, trade, environment, youth, and culture, affecting many countries in the region.

Initially, this forum was named as ACSC (the 1st ACSC in Malaysia – 2005), and adopted in the Philippines (2006) and Singapore (2007). The additional name APF was added during the IV ACSC (2009) in order to accommodate the different interpretation towards the term CSO and people's organizations from Thailand's CSOs. Since then, different titles have been used for the ACSC/APF forum in the subsequent meetings.

The output from this meeting is a joint statement and recommendation for the ASEAN Leaders regarding the ASEAN Summit. A feature of the ACSC/APF is to open spaces for dialogue with ASEAN Leaders. Whether CSO representatives are able to meet with ASEAN Heads of State in the form of an Interface during the ACSC/APF depends upon the attitude of the government hosting the Summit and ACSC/APF. Nevertheless, the joint statements and recommendations are submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat and the government representatives.



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