

Report on the HBS Future Workshop on Resources in Southeast Asia and China

Bangkok, 10th - 13th of March 2013

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Facilitation, documentation, organisational arrangement: Ralph Griese (Managing Director of finep, Germany), Elaine Haller (Assistant to the Director, hbs Southeast Asia Regional Office) and Nadine Willner (intern, hbs Southeast Asia).

Schedule

Sunday, 13th of March

Excursion Chao Phraya

15:30 – 17:30 Introduction in the process and the methodology/ getting to know

Monday, 14th of March

9:00 – 17:30 Problem Phase

Tuesday, 15th of March

9:00 – 14:00 Utopian Phase

14:00 – 17:30 Realisation Phase

Wednesday, 16th of March

9:00 – 14:00 Realisation Phase

14:00 – 17:30 Presentation of results

Monday, 11.03.13

After identifying the main issues in the region, the participants got together in groups to discuss five main themes which were forestry, fishery, energy, land and extractive industry. In small groups the themes were further examined and problems were highlighted.

- **Group 1-land:** The group discussed the underlying problem of land grabbing and was looking for a common word to integrate the many issues related to land, such as agriculture, farming, mining, indigenous people and extractive industries. It became clear that the term “land issues” would be too broad and so the group agreed to continue working with the term *inappropriate land use*. The participants shared local issues from Myanmar and compared the problems with experiences from Cambodia. A common concern was the impact of big cooperation on local land and the need for capacity building in the region. Also, the participants were discussing how to engage civil society and guarantee a fair share for the local population.

- **Group 2- extractive industry:** The mind mapping of the group started with a discussion on the clarification of what is a cause of extractive industries and what is an impact of it. Also, the participants agreed to exclude the revenue topic from the discussion. The group then agreed on problematic causes and impacts. Transparency, health, environment, CSR, policy and law as well as foreign investment was discussed. The group elaborated on the problem of corruption in the region which is linked to the lack of transparency and double standards. Not so many local problems were shared but the mind mapping was used to clarify, cluster and identify the main issue the group wanted to focus on. At the end of the group discussion, the participants agreed to limit their topic down to *lack of transparency in extractive industry*. In the discussion that followed the presentation it was asked why the impacts were only financially measured overlooking health impacts and quality of life. The future of extractive industries was discussed and the idea of mining the universe was brought into discussion.

- **Group 3- forestry :**

The group first discussed the causes, effects and problems of deforestation.

Thereby the participants tried to distinguish between global and local issues. One major problem the group described was the lack in national and international laws. Where do they overlap in rights as well as in authorities? Regional problems were seen in cultural diversity and in interpretation of laws at the border lands of Thailand.

Economic interests both national and international were seen as another concern. Different opinions were voiced on legal and illegal actions on forestry topics. The group then moved from problems to possible solutions in their brain storming session. It was discussed whether REDD+ is a solution or the cause of problems.

- **Group 4- fishery:**

The group started to discuss principles of causes and impacts on the fishery sector in the region . Interference in the natural marine environment results in impacts such as the increase of jellyfish. The main problems the participants observed are the lack in rights and the exploitation of the natural inhabitant. Based on these issues, other impacts can arise. The discussion focused mostly on the local level and established interlink ages to other issues on resources such as land, water and pollution.

- **Group 5- energy:**

The energy group discussed problems, impacts, options and the role of stakeholders like private households and (big) industries. The options for problems related to energy accumulated by the group were renewables, biomass, solar energy but also nuclear power and natural resources. During the brainstorming, a discussion on the definition of clean versus unclean energies took place, which led to the exchange of possible solutions. Different stakeholders have different interests and expectations from regional energy policy, thus the group saw the need to focus on good governance in order to establish a fair energy policy, which is inclusive and participatory. Part of the policy problem is also the energy transmission and the regional energy market, which relies on buying and importing energy from neighboring countries, but at the same time shifting problems related to energy production.

During the presentation the question of how to define clean energy was raised. Also, the high cost of alternative energy in the region was underlined as well as the interconnectedness of the energy issue with other resources such as water, forest and fishery.

Tuesday, 12.03.13

In the morning of day 2 the most relevant problems were elected. Out of 13 identified problems three were elected by a voting for further discussion in the vision phase. The chosen problems were

- Lack of transparency in the EI sector
- Land tenure security
- Lack of integrated regional energy policy

In the first exercise of the vision phase the (randomly selected) groups were asked to come up with a painting of their vision 2050:

▪ **Group I: Lack of integrated regional energy policy**

The brainstorming started with the question what the participants want to see in the future. One answer was that the consumers will see the effects of their own consumption patterns in the future. It was mentioned that China plans to have 40 nuclear power plants in the next years to provide enough energy for the country.

The importance of joint energy planning and connection in the region was highlighted as a vision for the future of energy policy. Other key words were energy efficiency, inclusiveness, livelihood, diversifying energy production, solar and wind energy, ethic banks and green investment. The group agreed that their vision of the year 2050 does not include nuclear and coal energy, but instead work with new technologies such as geo-energy and the potential of fusion-energy. The cost of environmental friendly technology was an issue as well as the need for two – way transmission lines which will allow the selling of energy back to the grid.

It was discussed whether nuclear power next to big cities will be accepted by the urban consumer or if there will be a technology in the future to reduce its radiation. The question of nuclear waste and its' deposit was raised. Moreover the need for environmental –friendly cities was discussed and responsible consumption especially for urban consumers was stressed.

During the discussion with all participants it was mentioned that nuclear power could be used in big cities to cover the costs. Other idea was to look for new energy sources in the universe. A balance between food security and green energy was highlighted as a future vision. Participants mentioned the necessity for subsidies for efficient energy technologies such as lamps. One important point that came up in the presentation and the discussion was the need to promote responsible consumption and change of consumer's patterns.

- **Group II: Land tenure security**

First, the group discussed the particularly problems related to land tenure issues in their home countries. A linkage between land tenure and energy demands was established and later on the group argued that sustainable land use planning is the foundation for all other related issues, such as people, forest, food security and development. A crucial factor therefore is the enforcement of laws and policies. Also, the realization of ASEAN Economic Community 2015 was discussed. As a vision the group sees transparency and networking of different stakeholders as a key. Furthermore, laws and regulations need to be reviewed under gender balanced conditions and transparency needs to be increased in all countries.

- **Group III: Lack of transparency in the EI sector**

The group started the discussion with defining the stakeholders which are CSOs, companies and the government. It was agreed that the EITI at the ASEAN level needs to be increased, but at the same time EITI was criticized for being focused only on the revenue side. The group agreed that people need to be educated and questions need to be raised to the government. The role for the biggest investors in the region- USA, EU, China- needs to start with their political will to transparency and international financial institutions need to care about environmental impacts and need to be accountable for their investments. Concerning the revenue, the participants envision it to go back to the people. In order to monitor EITI, an independent research institute will be set up in the group's vision and responsibilities will be shared between the new born ASEAN body and institutions such as EU, USA and China.

In the discussion the feasibility and achievability was questioned. The limited freedom of expression in the countries restricts an open dialogue on the issue of EI and other topics. The group came up with three steps to tackle the problem of EI. The first step is to empower people, develop knowledge through education and participation. The next step is to develop a monitoring mechanism and the third step is to develop a regional policy strategy for advocacy. The three steps were further developed in the planning phase on the last day of the workshop.

Wednesday, 13.03.13

Draft a working plan in the Realization Phase:

- **Group III: Lack of integrated regional energy policy**

(both Nadine and Elaine didn't participate in this group during the discussion)

- **Group II: Land tenure security**

The group started this session by raising questions: How to arrange land titles? Is this necessary at all? Are there any other options? They agreed on the main goal which is to secure land for the people's livelihood.

The first activity they planned is to advocate land use planning with international and national political actors in order to minimize land conflicts, promote economic growth and ensure land tenure security. The main actors defined here were mainly the political decision makers on different levels (global, local, governmental, civil) and the people affected and working on the issue. A concrete idea was to monitor the enforcement of land tenure policies which includes CSOs, academics and donors. Moreover, local people need to be trained to increase their knowledge and capacity in the field of land tenure.

- **Group III: Lack of transparency in the EI sector**

At the beginning of the final realization phase, the group clarified what EITI is and learned that it is a voluntary instrument to make government revenue transparent. Problematic here is the high rate of corruption and bribery in the region which was discussed within the group. Due to this fact, CSO and people's participation is crucial to make EITI more transparent. The group further developed the steps they agreed on the day before. During the discussion the participants were stressing that any actions such as education and advocacy needs to be highly contextualized and country specific. Evidence of EI shall be collected and put into a policy paper. A country specific curriculum for educating civil society will be developed. The group acknowledged the need to engage the government in the process. Trainings for the government on issues such as participatory planning are included in the working plan.