

4th All Asia Public Interest Environmental Law Conference Tiaong, Quezon, Philippines. March 22-26, 2004 version 3

The Fourth All Asia Public Interest Environmental Law Conference is being organized in the Philippines by Tanggol Kalikasan. Target participants are those whose work is mostly or entirely to represent communities who most feel the impact of environmental degradation. This conference is not exclusively for lawyers but are open to scientists, community organizers and advocacy officers who are engaged in the use of law and policy for environment and community.

Thus far, Tanggol has been able to raise enough funds for the in-country costs for 40 participants and is still trying to raise enough to shoulder participants' and keynotes' travel expenses. Those interested are advised to find their own travel funding to ensure participation. Since Ford Foundation and hopefully Asia Foundation are shouldering the costs of the international and Philippine conferences respectively, we are hoping their offices in the participants home countries will fund the travel costs. We will be applying to both foundations for endorsement letters of participants who register early enough to make proposals for travel funding to Ford and Asia Foundations.

This Notice is intended to solicit comments on the design as well as possible presentations.

The provisional design is as follows:
Arrivals on Sunday, March 21 -- Registration

Date	Mon, Mar 22	Tues, Mar 23	Wed, Mar	Thrs, Mar 25	Fri, Mar 26	Sat, Mar 27
AM	Trade, IPR, WTO Intro: Env & WTO; Special Problems in Int'l Trade and TRIPS, Avenues for Public Interest Law to protect community interests	Global Climate Change Avenues for Public Interest Law to protect community interests	Field Trip	CBRM Intro: Country Status Special Problems	Int'l: Press Conference; Philippine sessions on Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, Fisheries Code, Protected Areas Act	Women and Environment Laws and Options; Heritage Conservation Laws; Teaching Philippine environmental law
PM	Biodive and GE Intro: CBD, Cartagena Protocol & Special Problems; Avenues for Public Interest Law to protect community interests	Workshops Roundtable discussions on pending and potential cases/actions (may be split into subjects or in plenary)		Urban and Industrial Areas issues; Solid Waste Management, Public Transportation, Land Use Planning	Intl: Adjourn; Philippine conf: FPIC rules in Mining & Bioprospecting, Citizens' Suit Provisions in the Clean Air & Ecological Solid Waste	Alternative Dispute Resolution workshops on topics discussed
KEY NOTES	Mae Wan Ho (?)	GCC exprt	Solidarity Night	CBNRM experts	Filipino Night	Adjourn

Departures of International Participants at lunchtime, March 26
Accommodations for 5 nights, 6 days

The design of the conference needs validation. The premises on which the above design was based are as follows:

- In contrast to the first All Asia in 1991, sufficient avenues now exist for public interest lawyers to discuss the breadth and depth of their cases with others, including but not limited to the ELAW network, CIEL conferences, IUCN meetings, by email, etc.
- New challenges exist for public interest environmental lawyers in the field of international law that impacts on communities and the current discussions on international environmental law may not sufficiently address this.
- For issues that remain to be domestic issues, comparative analysis of strategies and approaches already tried need discussion, particularly on CBRM and Strategies to deal with problems in urban and industrialized areas

As such, the design is in two parts – international law and impacts on environment and communities for the first two days; and comparative environmental law approaches, which include field trips on day three and discussions of day four on two major spheres – rural and urban issues. These spheres are further focused on specific approaches in which big steps and reasonable success has been met by early adopters of particular approaches and results are demonstrable or at least sufficiently studied and analyzed. There will also be a press conference at 11 am on the day of departure as well as arranged media interviews with some of the participants through the course of the conference.

By September, a call for presentations will be made so hopefully, the basic design will have a more discernible shape based on the comments by then. We welcome any suggestions for keynote speakers who are particularly inspiring and can give the big picture on the issues discussed for the day.

March would be the start of the summer months and light, airy clothing would be preferable. While the conference area is fully air conditioned, not all the sleeping quarters would be. However, the architecture of the cottages allow for comfort and ventilation. The conference venue will be at the Villa Escudero, about a hundred kilometers from Manila and sitting on the bank of a river.

NOTE: PHILIPPINE CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

There will be 15 law students and 15 Philippine lawyers who will join the second part, including the field trip and the last day of sessions. On the day of adjournment and an additional day after that, they will have their own sessions on Public Interest Environmental Law in the Philippines. International participants are welcome to join these sessions as well. We will, however, ask that they cover their expenses for these extensions.

Please send your questions, comments, design suggestions and expressions of interest in presenting/attending or nominations for participation, preferably by September 1, 2003 to

Ipat Luna, conference coordinator
ipatluna@bwf.org

Internet registration will begin on September 15, 2003.