

Voices from the Forest



non-timber forest products - exchange programme

Let's take it slow

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Voices from the Forest

Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP)

Asia is a collaborative network of over 100 civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) whose mission is to catalyze the empowerment of forest-dependent communities in Asia towards the sustainable management of forested landscapes & ecosystems.

Voices from the Forest is the official newsletter of NTFP-EP. It is released biannually and contains regional and country forests and peoples updates from the NTFP-EP network.

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editor's notes

It's not just about eating slowly, and savoring your food, but **Slow Food** is more a movement to promote local cuisine and local culture behind food which may be losing out to fast food options slowly taking over many landscapes and lifestyles. Leo, Beng, Ruth and Loreta joined the **Slow Food** meeting in Italy to know more about the **Slow Food** movement and to support indigenous peoples in saving their cuisine and the right to healthy, locally sourced food.

Though our feature article is in Italy, many of the articles focus on Indonesia with Indonesian partners organizing the **11th Meet the Makers** fair featuring women and youth in the local pottery scene. On the island of Borneo an important event on *tengkawang*, an important essential oil producing tree used in cosmetics and other health care products, was also conducted among diverse stakeholders.

In Cambodia, in cooperation with the FAO, and Cambodia's Forestry Administration, NTFP-EP Cambodia completed a Forest Tenure Policy study and prepared a publication entitled: "Forest Tenure Policies in Cambodia: Status Gaps and Way Forward". The same is also available online. Also, the establishment of the **Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Alliance (CIPA)** was met with remarkable success and meaningful challenges.

Regionally, the highlight during the period was the **EXCEED** training in Kotagiri, India entitled "*Managing Community Forestry Enterprise Growth and Effective Marketing Strategies*". 20 participants from 6 countries from local producer groups, NGOs and the government sector learned about marketing and enterprise through interactive exercises, field excursion and through a rare look at the inside runnings of the Last Forest Enterprise. It was a treat for all, including the trainers!

Many activities were held as well under the **ICCAs** banner. Regional meetings took place within the frame of the **World Conservation Congress** in Hawaii while a trailblazing meeting on ICCAs also took place in Myanmar, the only country in ASEAN which mentions ICCAs explicitly in its National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.

Cover photo by Beng Camba

Global honey display during Terra Madre Salone del Gusto 2016



Let us know!

Do you have interesting stories of people and forests that you'd like us to feature in Voices from the Forest?

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Let's take it slow

Written by Earl Díaz (NTFP-EP Asia)

Photos by SLow Food, Keystone Foundation, and Beng Camba (NTFP-EP Philippines)

In today's world, the cosmopolitan lifestyle ascribes the quickness of service and things. People nowadays are veering away from the sluggish and relaxed way of life, and generally adore things that come in swift suites – rapid transport systems, synchronous exchanges on the internet, and ready-to-eat meals, among others.

When it comes to the food we eat, many have grown accustomed to the fast food culture, and seem to have lost the connection to the flavorful stories behind the food that is served to us. Aside from the the unfavorable long-term effects of fast food on our health, this dispassionate philosophy towards the food we eat has made us oblivious to the intricate yet exquisitely essential connection between what we eat and the earth.

“The Slow Food movement is a way of saying no to the rise of fast food and fast life. It means living an unhurried life and taking time to enjoy simple pleasures, starting at the tables.”

The Slow Food philosophy is deeply-rooted in how food is connected to many other aspects of life, including culture, politics, agriculture, and the environment. Through a conscious consumption of the food we prefer, we can collectively influence how food is cultivated, produced, and distributed, and as a result bring about transformational change. It believes in food and food production that is:



GOOD

a fresh and flavorsome seasonal diet that satisfies the senses and is part of our local culture;



CLEAN

food production and consumption that does not harm the environment, animal welfare or our health;



FAIR

accessible prices for consumers and fair conditions and pay for small-scale producers.

Founded in 1989, Slow Food is a global, grassroots organization which aims to prevent the disappearance of local food cultures and traditions by advocating for food education. By reawakening and reorienting the senses, and studying the various aspects of food from production to consumption, Slow Food urges everyone to be a neo-gastronome – a person who is aware of their food choices and how it affects the market, food production; and that everyday choices can be made, not just to benefit our palate but also the planet.

“Since its inception, Slow Food has grown into a global movement involving millions of people in over 160 countries, working to ensure everyone has access to good, clean and fair food.”

Held from 22-26 September in Turin, Italy, about 7,000 delegates from 143 countries and over 800 exhibitors and 300 Slow Food Presidia have participated in the 11th Terra Madre Salone del Gusto fair– Italy’s largest international gathering dedicated entirely to food culture.

Traditional knowledge is part of biodiversity, and has allowed generations of farmers to cultivate food that is grown in their land. Protecting biodiversity means respecting everything that is linked to it: places, knowledge and cultures. Slow Food highlights the need to protect small-scale farmers and producers who understand the fragile balance of nature and work harmoniously with the environment. Partners from NTFP-EP India and Philippines took part in the Terra Madre Salone del Gusto 2016, and with them are gastronomic stories from their experiences with various partner communities.



Robert Leo of Keystone Foundation

From India, Robert Leo of Keystone Foundation shared with the participants the experiences of Keystone’s community partners in harvesting honey produced by giant rock bees and coffee from the forests of Nilgiris. He said products currently belong to Slow Food’s Ark of Taste which were displayed in the Keystone stall in Terra Madre, where people visited and had samples of the said Slow Food products.

As part of the Slow Food movement in India, what used to be India’s first bee museum has successfully evolved into a bustling culinary destination in the scenic mountains of Nilgiris. With many of its dishes being prepared and cooked with only the best traditional ingredients like honey, coffee, pepper, and millets, produced by its partner communities like Putthukad, this charming restaurant on top of the hills is redefining what dining should mean for many of its customers while remaining true to its rooted beginnings.



Happy students of Kodaikanal International School at the Place to Bee!



Ruth, Loreta, Beng and Leo (foreground) with NTFP-EP friends during the Terra Madre event

In the Philippines, one of its convivium members is Fresh Start Organics, a 3-hectare organic farm facility located in Silay City, Negros Occidental founded by Ramon Uy Jr., a member of NTFP-EP Philippines board of trustees.

“Slow Food, for me, is moving forward. It’s moving forward from the conventional system, the big agri-system because the green revolution, especially in our country failed. So, Slow Food is actually not going back to basics, it’s moving forward to a more sustainable way of producing food now. It’s not large scale, but the focus is on small scale producers like us, and empowering them, hearing their story and appreciating what they’re doing. More than 80% of our food comes from small-scale farmers, but they are not compensated well. So, what we want is for them be treated fairly--they deserve to be rich also, because they wake up very early, they work the hardest, but at the end of the day, they end up the poorest. We wanted to change that in the Philippines.” - Ramon Uy, Fresh Start Organics

One of the highlights of Terra Madre Salone del Gusto was Let it Bee, an area dedicated to sharing knowledge about bees and honey. The Philippine Forest Honey Network, through Ruth Canlas, Beng Camba and Loreta Alsa, was able to share their experiences in making traditional practices and modern standards meet in the lore of honey harvesting among indigenous communities in the Philippines. Through continuous product development, technology transfer, capacity building and promotion and marketing, the Philippine Forest

Honey Network aims to grow and strengthen its existing member base in Quezon Province, Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Bukidnon, Tarlac, and Negros Occidental, Philippines.

The event ended with a cheerful parade. It was momentous for all the Terra Madre network as they merge together with the City of Turin to “live an important experience of sharing.” In his ending speech, Carlo Petrini, president of Slow Food, stated that as 500 million families around the world struggle on a daily basis to defend biodiversity, promote native seeds, and act locally to develop clean and health economies, the world of agriculture is dominated mainly by big multinationals. According to Petrini, in the face of all these huge multinationals, the Slow Food movement is an alternative model towards peeking into the future of food sovereignty and a progressively inter-connected food market – “they may be giants, but we are millions.”



Ruth and Beng with Carlo Petrini

Written by Lorang Yun (CIPA)

Photo by Femy Pinto (NTFP-EP Asia)



The lack of recognition of their rights and capacities towards advancing their rights and welfare for the past decades have left many indigenous peoples helpless in the face of threats and various forms of harassment, forcing them to abandon their various causes for equality. This long-standing struggle of indigenous peoples in Cambodia has motivated more than a hundred delegates from 17 groups from 12 provinces to create the Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Alliance (CIPA).

Since the formal launch of CIPA in December of 2015, the alliance has become a platform for solidarity and cooperation among the strong network of indigenous peoples' rights champions in the country. From the time it existed informally, the alliance has since aided in the promotion and assertion of the collective rights of indigenous peoples in Cambodia within the framework of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Successful strides in communal land titling

Capacity building of the staff and community committees was accomplished: three target communities received their certificates of recognition on self-identity from the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), while Bangkoeun Phal community got the legal entity and are developing the map in preparation for land registration. Two sacred sites in Yeak Loam lake in Ratanakiri province and Dok Kromom mountain in Mondulakiri province were mapped and prepared for registration as an Indigenous Community Conserved Area.

Community-based resource management and livelihood actions

Partners gained the knowledge to improve livelihoods and are able to reinforce the concept of natural resource conservation. These were achieved through activities and the successful conduct of specific capacity building and exchange learning activities on ICCAs, CLAPs, and Food from the Forests/ Wild Foods knowledge. Community assessments in eight villages were carried out and documented, where the community profiles included ecological/natural resources knowledge and community conservation practices for their community development plans, and also assist communities to develop the community coffee enterprises in Busra commune, Pechreda district, Mondulakiri province.

Solidarity-building among its members

Ratanakiri, Mondulakiri and Preah Vihear provinces have piloted building stronger network ties through alliance activities. Four committed partners of the project (CIYA, OPKC, HA and IADC) produced the biggest achievement of the IP-Alliance in 2015-2016 with its institutional strengthening, as reflected in the expansion of its members and the successful conduct of its four quarterly meetings. This included two national workshops of indigenous women and youth, and the 1st General Assembly of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia, which officially launched the CIPA, and included the participation of 110 delegates

from 12 provinces and 17 ethnic groups. The assembly strengthened the solidarity and cooperation of indigenous peoples in the country. For 2016, CIPA has a clear road map for building the alliance from grassroots level.

Strengthening socio-political support mechanisms

CIPA worked with its NGO partners to do advocacy against 7 cases of dam construction in Areng valley (Chong community) and Sesan II; Economic Land Concessions (ELCs) within the case of Chok Cha village (Bunong community), Prame (Kui community), Hong Anh Gia Lai company (land grabbing in Ratanakiri province) and mining issue against MEXICO gold, Angkor Gold Company and the SLC.

CIPA also developed a petition and statement raising the 7 cases to relevant government agencies from the local to national level, and to governments in China, France, Vietnam, and United States through petitions and statements submitted to their respective embassies in Cambodia, the UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur, and the Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Peoples, UNPFII. These petitions were also submitted through the Asia Peoples Forum (APF), the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), and the Compliance Advisory Ombudsman (CAO), under the IFC.

The year also saw some challenges in terms of limited capacity and resources, new policies and external threats from conglomerates that oppose their rights to their land. The past year also brought home the point that it is important to work with the youth who are a potential resource who can directly assist the communities. There should be more focus on alliance building with the 17 IP groups in Cambodia, and support of the CIPA as the national platform of Indigenous Peoples. The concept of ICCAs can be applied which can help the community mapping of their ancestral domains, provide documentary evidence to protect their customary lands, natural resources and biodiversity, and support their claim to their land in order to sustain the livelihood and indigenous culture and identity for the next generation. An increased support in the formation of self-help groups (SHG) in terms of developing their community profiles and community development plans, as well as supporting small enterprises, ecotourism and agroforestry in the indigenous areas and communities, should be essential in working towards lobbying for land rights.



Empowering indigenous women and the youth

Starting in 2016, the PDR-SGF has received funding from the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), a global program led by international women's funds and rights based organization, FCAM, Mama Cash and Both Ends. In this regard, PDR-SGF opens its call for proposals by 10 October 2016.

GAGGA PDR-SGF shall be in line with the GAGGA vision and will aim to strengthen capabilities and unify grassroots groups to lobby and advocate for women's rights and environmental justice agendas.

GAGGA's long term vision is

a world in which women can and do exercise their rights to water, food security and a clean, healthy, and safe environment."

GAGGA PDR-SGF aims to catalyze and support activities that will build up and strengthen the capacity of local organizations, with stronger focus on **women in conservation, food security and health, and sustainable resource use and livelihood.**

GAGGA PDR-SGF will be made accessible to more communities within the wider NTFP-EP network in forested areas throughout Southeast Asia. The call is open to partner and non-partner community-based organizations (CBOs) primarily in its country networks in Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, and extends also to its network in Malaysia and Vietnam as well as in expansion areas/countries, such as Lao PDR and Myanmar.

To apply, go to www.ntfp.org/grants.



Written by Jusupta Tarigan (NTFP-EP Indonesia)

Photo by Valentinus Heri (Riak Bumi)



Seeking Collaboration for Illipe Nut Development in Kalimantan

The *tengkawang* network meeting was conducted from the 31st October til the 1st of November at Borneo Hotel, Pontianak, West Kalimantan. The meeting was facilitated by Riak Bumi foundation and attended by various stakeholders (government, NGOs, private sector, researchers, community and the academe). The meeting was a follow up to the 1st first *tengkawang* network meeting held 4-5 August 2016 in Kapuas Hulu. The objectives of the 2nd meeting were:

- Sharing experiences of *tengkawang* development initiatives
- Gathering information on the potential, production and marketing opportunities for *tengkawang*
- Sharing knowledge on *tengkawang* research from research organizations
- Establishing a network structure and action plan for the network

Tengkawang or Illipe Nut is an endemic plant from Kalimantan. Currently, there are 13 species of *tengkawang* being protected under Indonesian law – 10 species can be found in Kalimantan and 3 in Sumatra. The harvesting turnaround for *tengkawang* is 3-5 years. It is one of the essential NTFPs used by Dayak indigenous peoples and local communities who depend on the forest. For many indigenous peoples in West Kalimantan, *tengkawang* is a symbol of their cultural identity and source of livelihood. It is also a key element in keeping a balanced ecosystem. West Kalimantan province is the largest *tengkawang* producer in Indonesia. Based on data from Forestry office district in Kapuas Hulu, total production of

smoked/dried *tengkawang* in 2014-2015 is around 1.459, 283 tons from Kapuas Hulu, 1.106 tons and from Bengkayang district, and 17 tons from Ketapang Distrcit. *Tengkawang* has big potential for future development. From an economic point of view, *tengkawang* could provide an alternative income for the local people. However, creative efforts have to be concerted in order to increase value-addition to *tengkawang*-based products. From the environmental side, *tengkawang* trees can be useful for maintaining the presence of other plants: the fruit provides sustenance to various kinds of animals while the tree itself provides resistance to erosion. It is estimated that 20 villages of the Kapuas Hulu district can produce 390 tons of *tengkawang* fruit. Encouraging more community initiatives aligned to the protection and utilization of *tengkawang* forest areas for the future could contribute largely towards a joint forest protection movement for the remaining forests in Indonesia.

Since 2004, the number of operational palm oil companies has also increased in central *tengkawang* production areas in West Kalimantan, particularly in Sintang, and Bengkayang. The entry of these companies pose a serious threat not just to the sustainability of *tengkawang* and forests but also for communities who are at tempted to sell their lands because of their dire financial needs.

At the end of the workshop, all participants agreed that the network would coordinate with Riak Bumi to further serve as a vehicle to share knowledge, appropriate technology in *tengkawang* production, community organizing, marketing and capacity building as well as in conserving forest areas.



Rattan, Manila Copal and Manila Elemi have been pointed out as priority NTFPs for development

DENR leads the mainstreaming of NTFP Policies in the Philippines!

2016 has shown to be very promising for NTFPs in the Philippines, with NTFP-EP joining the national Technical Working Group (TWG) formed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Forest Management Bureau (DENR-FMB). The invitation to join the review and mainstreaming of NTFP policies was expressed in a small meeting held during the Asia Pacific Forestry Week in Clark, Angeles City, Pampanga last February 2, 2016.

According to the DENR-FMB, the Regional Resin Workshop of NTFP-EP Asia held last October 2015 made them realize how the existing permitting policies are not responsive to the needs of the local communities to sustainably develop their NTFPs. DENR-FMB asked the assistance of NTFP-EP in the stocktaking of relevant NTFP information, and in the conduct and facilitation of the policy workshop held in April 2016.

After a series of meetings and the policy workshop, the first meeting of the NTFP TWG was held last June 17, 2016. The TWG includes government agencies, academe and NTFP-EP Philippines as NGO representative. The following are the major target outputs of the TWG until December 2017: 1) authoritative list of NTFP data, 2) policy brief, 3) draft policy, and 4) development of resource mapping protocol and tool.

NTFP-EP formally joined the TWG during the scoping workshop held in University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB) last Aug. 11-12, 2016. The program determined the detailed plan of activities that will guide a proposal development in order to mainstream the sustainable management of NTFP resources. The success of the TWG will definitely help the local communities that still suffer from the very challenging and lengthy permitting process for NTFPs.



Written by Katherine Mana-Galido (NTFP-EP Philippines)

Photo by Dazzle Labapis (NTFP-EP Asia)



First National Workshop on ICCAs in Myanmar

Written by Amy Maling (WWF Myanmar, ICCA Consortium Honorary Member)

Photo by Grazia Borini Feyerabend, ICCA Consortium

Article also available on ICCA Consortium Newsletter

Fully in line with the Promise of Sydney vision, POINT (the organization currently facilitating a national platform for indigenous peoples in Myanmar), WWF Myanmar and the ICCA Consortium joined forces in the Spring of 2016 to organize the First Workshop on ICCAs in Myanmar. The event, which took place in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on June 7-8 2016, was to increase awareness and foster a better understanding of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in governing and managing the country's forests. The event was attended by more than 90 representatives from various indigenous peoples' groups and networks in the country, local and international NGOs, and government agencies.

Dr. Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Global Coordinator of the ICCA Consortium, together with speakers from Indonesia and Philippines were invited to share their rich experiences and knowledge on ICCAs. "ICCAs are the 'seeds' of bio-cultural diversity around the world"-- Dr. Grazia said. "They are found everywhere, span all types of ecosystems and cultures, have thousands of local names and are extremely diverse".

The occasion provided opportunity for the participants to reflect on the ICCAs in the country and participants came up with a long list of ICCAs in different ecosystems – rivers, coastal, and forests. This is not surprising since Myanmar is one of the Southeast Asian countries with rich diverse ethnicities. Some Karen participants from the Kamoethway community offered an inspiring presentation on one outstanding ICCA in Tanintharyi

Region, in southern part of Myanmar. "We will protect our forest with or without recognition", one of their leaders said. But after listening to the inspiring experiences in the Philippines and Indonesia which highlighted the benefits of ICCA recognition in terms of possible protection from threats of mining and other unsustainable development, the Kamoethway group showed great interest to find out more.

U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General of the Forestry Department, also graced the event and highlighted in his opening remarks the country's commitment to recognize the customary rights of indigenous peoples and their ICCAs. Myanmar is one of the few countries that specifically targeted ICCA recognition in their National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP). Target 11.1 of NBSAP says that by 2020, 8% of Myanmar's land area will be conserved in protected areas, including ICCAs. Some of the key actions identified towards reaching that goal include a review of opportunities for different forest governance and pilot initiatives to test different governance types and forms of ICCA recognition.

The workshop is the founding moment for the appropriate recognition of ICCAs in the country. With high interest from the participants, POINT and WWF Myanmar are committed to keep the momentum by keeping the dialogue alive with government agencies. Consultations with various IP groups and others will also take place towards establishing a suitable ICCA Network in Myanmar.

Is there a role for community/social forestry in operationalizing Paris Climate Agreement?

Written by Dazzle Labapis (NTFP-EP Asia)

The Paris agreement on Climate Change (CC) was finally put into effect on November 4, 2016, highlighting the first time that governments have agreed on legally binding limits to global temperature rises, through their crafting and submission of their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). Many countries have already put forward commitments and translated their respective INDCs into NDCs on curbing carbon emissions under the agreement, including a number of ASEAN members' states. However, several climate experts upon reviewing the pledges argued that temperature rises significantly overshoot the threshold, with 3 degrees Celsius of warming. There was a clamor for further concrete solutions in the recently concluded COP22 in Marrakesh.

Just a few weeks prior to COP22 on October 2016, NTFP-EP organized two important workshops which highlighted and documented contributions of social forestry in supporting and strengthening actions by countries in operationalizing the Paris Agreement. First is the National Consultation Workshop on Harnessing Contributions of CBFM to National Climate Change Plans and NDCs or the National NDC Workshop slated in 12-13 October 2016, in collaboration with the DENR-Forest Management Bureau, which took the first step being the current chair of the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF), and the ASEAN Regional Workshop on Social Forestry and Nationally Determined Contribution or the Regional NDC Workshop on 20-21 October 2016.

Results of the workshops revealed that Social Forestry has already evolved beyond subsistence-oriented approach and can do more in reinvesting to community's own development even beyond forestry to agriculture such as mechanization, development of small-scale enterprises to jump out of dependence on forests and forestry. SF implementation and the role of REDD-plus has put more relevance of linking this to climate change. SF offers services beyond forest protection and regeneration, such as community forestry enterprises, low emission livelihoods, improving ecosystem services, among others. Despite these clear signs however, gaps and pressures remain. These include destruction of

forests due to land conversion, fragmented laws and policies, exponential increase in population, among others.

Recommendations for Priority Actions Formulated

Responding to these gaps, a number of recommendations and priority actions have been developed by the delegates. At the national level, the need for continuous dissemination of SF and CC good practices, learnings among countries, facilitating policy enhancements, conducting dialogues among stakeholders, and improving the language of SF and CC that clearly links and integrates to country mandated climate plans such as the NDCs were underscored. On the other hand, recommendations were centered into knowledge sharing and capacity building on community enterprises development, resource management, forest restoration and protection technologies and innovations, harmonization of social forestry activities, issues on tenure, and translating the workshop outputs to serve as possible inputs to the strategic plan of actions of the other relevant ASEAN Working Groups.

Rainforestation farming beyond the Philippines?

One good recommendation to start off at the community level is the adoption of Rainforestation (RF) farming system. This technology has already been proven to be effective in selected areas in the Philippines, building on science-based approach of closely resembling the rainforest ecosystem structure thru the use of native or local tree species commonly growing in the area, with the aim of improving the physical status of wildlife. RF, according to Dr. Paciencia Milan of the Rainforest Restoration Initiative (RFRI), from providing sustainable income for farmers by integrating agricultural crops and fruit trees into a tree farm of native tree species, it has already evolved as a system to respond to land management needs such as watershed restoration. It now encourages the involvement of the local community and other stakeholders in the various stages of project development, monitoring and sustainability of their rainforestation farms.

Meet the Makers, Meet Maya!

Written by Natasya Muliandari
(NTPP-EP Indonesia)

Photos by Natasya Muliandari
(NTPP-EP Indonesia) and
Bregas Harrimardoyo

When I asked Maya why she wanted to join the Meet the Makers event she smiled and said “What I know is resource persons get certificates for imparting knowledge onto others. I’ve always wanted a certificate. I heard I’ll get one after this event.” :)

Maya is one of the youngest participants of Meet the Makers, a unique exhibition of artisans for artisans, by artisans. A rare exhibition and fair where city dwellers get to meet and learn more directly from the artisans behind the products.

Maya is a potter from Bayat village who did a demonstration in Jakarta last October.

Bayat village, located in Central Java, has long been known as the potters’ pottery since a long time ago. In Bayat, pottery making is usually referred to as women’s work. It can be seen clearly with how the slanted rotary tool is especially designed for women so as to consider the modesty of the sarong in the footwork needed to run the pottery wheel. That is why the technique is unique. In the village, Bayat women make pottery to generate income, while the men work in the rice fields.



At 14, unlike most teenagers in the village at her age, Maya has honed her skills in making pottery. Her talent in pottery was inherited from her mother, and she was also encouraged by her father. She admitted that at first it was her parents who “forced” her to learn on how to make pottery. Sri Jarwanti and Suharno, Maya’s parents, actually had a good reason to do so! They wanted to introduce the art of pottery to people, and before introducing Bayat’s artistry to others, it was fitting that they should first introduce this first to their only daughter. As time went on, Maya finally acquired the enjoyment and appreciation in learning the skill from her mother as she found her own motivation—and it wasn’t for gaining money but for enabling her to embrace a wider creative opportunity.



Meet The Makers



Meet the Makers is a landmark craft as art show held by a community of artists, craftspeople, designers & grassroots organizations from all over Indonesia.

Regeneration

While most of the women in her mother’s generation are motivated to make pottery for generating income, the motivation is a bit different for Maya’s generation. Her motivation to learn and maintain the culture is so strong because she wants to develop and prepare herself for better opportunities. She realized that this special skill allows her to be outstanding, not just in school but even outside her academic environment. Her participation in Meet the Makers gives her an outstanding credit in school.

Nowadays, interest and involvement of youth is an issue in many artisan communities like Bayat. Most of the youth are no longer driven to be artisans like many of their parents. Maybe, most of the parents also do not hope that their children will continue to be artisans like themselves, because they would want their children to be better educated towards a better future.

But like Maya who sees the opportunity in embracing and enhancing her identity as a Bayat potter, we also wish that other children could also share the same enthusiasm for their own cultural identity, and find a place for it in their present and in their future.

We hope we could have more “Mayas” in the future—more proud young artisans with bigger dreams! Maya’s certificate of appreciation as an artisan at Meet the Makers is maybe only her first step in achieving them.

Maya’s participation in the Meet the Makers event was made possible through the support of the Indonesian Heritage Society.



An enthusiastic group of 20 EXCEED participants from 6 different countries had a taste of the warm Tamil welcome in the chilly Blue Mountains of the Nilgiris. EXCEED: The NTFP Academy is the training and advisory arm of the Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme. This year, NTFP-EP partners with Keystone Foundation, Last Forest Enterprise, and Aadhimalai Producer Company for the training “*Managing Community Forestry Enterprise Growth and Effective Marketing Strategies.*” The short course takes off from Keystone Foundation and NTFP-EP’s vast experience in establishing community-based forest enterprises and intermediaries, and more importantly, ensuring their sustainability

DAY 1

On its opening day, the participants were introduced to the framework of a sustainable community-base enterprise, its stages, and the various parameters that guide enterprise growth. The concepts were concretized through cases, issues and learning from the experiences of start-ups before they transitioned into sustained enterprises.

Case studies used were drawn from actual enterprises of some of the participants. Through the interactive hands-on approach, the participants were given a venue to exercise their analytical skills and practice what they learn.

The training was held in the eco-designed Keystone Foundation campus whose well-insulated buildings were made out of rammed earth. As it is built in the open spaces of the hills of the Nilgiris, it isn’t surprising to see random critter visitors around the campus. For their first day, a Green Keelback made an appearance and just after Pratim, Keystone Director, spoke about the wildlife that they could expect to see around campus!

DAY 2

After a day of introductions and preliminary learning, the participants visited the production centre at Puthukkad, one of the cooperatives of the Aadhimalai Producer Company. They were able to take part in an interactive sharing session with the community members. The sharing was so intense on honey, wax, nutmeg and various products processed and traded by the local community and the visitors. There was so much excitement that everyone plunged into questions, and it wasn’t until the end of the visit that they realized they didn’t introduce themselves!

The highlight of the day was the lip balm training where the local community showed how, through simple techniques but with trained precision, a high quality product can be made.



Amphone "Noy" Vannamahaxay

When she came back from the training, she was able to apply the knowledge she learned, with her colleagues and her community, Phosy village in Laos.

Mr. Somsack Sysomvang, the Laos Department of Forestry (DOF) Deputy Director for Village Forestry and NTFPs was also very supportive of Miss Noy's work on beekeeping in Phosy village. He even purchased a box-hive while in India as part of his commitment to make a showcase for the other villagers in Laos.

A follow-up project would enhance the sharing and replication not only of beekeeping, but also of government-civil society engagement within the country, especially on the theme of sustainable livelihoods. The project will include improving sustainable management of honey resources in Laos communities.

DAY 3

From the previous day's fun-filled field trip, the participants resumed once again with high enthusiasm very early in the morning. They discussed how to apply the lessons learned from Puthukkad to their own local situations.

Topics covered for the day were: organizational development, human resource management, production and sustainability, environmental sustainability, and financial management-within the context of community enterprises. The participants had a show and tell of their own products, including the corresponding impact these products had on their environment.

The financial management session ended with a quiz bee among the participants, and in the end, the winners were treated to a shopping spree at the Last Forest's Green Shop!

DAY 4

The group had a tour of Last Forest Enterprise, a social enterprise committed to supporting and working with primary communities through its marketing platform.

From putting together Asia's first bee museum, Last Forest now houses the top Slow Food restaurant in Ooty – A Place to Bee! Aritra Bose shared how A Place to Bee is more than just a restaurant – it is a social enterprise that builds the capacity of local and community people, promotes local food, flavors and culture and connects the Bee Museum activities through Kesytone Foundation's wider base of work. Everyone felt inspired when they learned about the financial software that Last Forest uses to generate sales reports... daily!

Everyone got treated to a taste of authentic Slow Food in A Place to Bee. Aside from an explosion of flavors, the food served for lunch was also a feast for the eyes!

The afternoon ended with shopping at the LFE Greenshoppe in Ooty.

DAY 5

After a day of immersion in Ooty, the group was treated to a hands-on learning of the Last Forest's honey production chain, from the bee hive to their store shelves.

An Operational Systems orientation was led by Frango and the participants saw the different procedures applied on the products, the quality checks, as well as the forms that track all the products within the center that were shared and discussed. A session on Human Resource Management was facilitated by Arun Ramachandran, the Chief Executive Officer of Aadhimalai, and finally Monica, LFE accountant, shared the different financial reports prepared and the analysis done to arrive at management decisions.

DAY 6

As the training came to a close, the participants met for the last time for some final brainstorming and sharing of the plans they formulated for their own enterprises back home.

NTFP-EP, Keystone Foundation, Last Forest Enterprises, Aadhimalai, and A Place to Bee would like to send their warm congratulations to the 20 EXCEED graduates, and their many thanks to the people at the forefront and back end of this training who made this success possible. The learning through sharing does not stop here.

Let's continue to work towards sustainability of our enterprises to further empower communities and create a greener market for everyone!



Forest Tenure Policies in Cambodia: Status, Gaps and Way Forward

Improving livelihoods and income of forest dependent communities is important in the context of poverty reduction efforts, food security, and achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). In this regard, many countries in Asia have initiated forest tenure reform programmes. However, the outcome of such reform is mixed and potential benefits to rural people are not fully realised. Restrictive and weak regulatory frameworks, tenure insecurity, and insufficient institutional capacity are key factors limiting the impacts of forest tenure reform. FAO initiated a regional programme on Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income in Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam in 2014. These three countries are referred to pilot countries.

The main objective was to strengthen regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity of these countries on forest tenure to ensure better income and livelihoods for forest dependent communities. These briefs present key results of the forest tenure policy assessment based on the review of over 130 policy documents in three pilot countries (29 in Cambodia, 37 in Nepal, and 76 in Viet Nam). The country specific brief provides the current status; gaps of regulatory framework related to forest tenure in the selected pilot country and provide policy recommendations to address gaps. The regional brief provides a comprehensive and comparative scenario on forest tenure and draw learning from each other (what works where and why?)

Available online at www.NTFP.org



Penilaian Manfaat dan Nilai Ekonomi Jasa Lingkungan Berbasis Hasil Hutan Bukan Kayu di Taman Nasional Danau Sentarum dan Daerah Penyangga

This comic is part of the multi-benefit assessment program in Indonesia. The publication tells of a story of the assessment of benefits and economic value of environmental services in the peatlands timber forest in Sentarum National Park and nearby buffer areas.

This publication has been made possible through the support of SEI (Stockholm Environment Institute), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), and Riak Bumi and TNDS (Sentarum National Park),

Available online at www.NTFP-indonesia.org

Oh My goodness!



How construction in Japan is driving destruction in Malaysia's last rainforests. Will Japan change its ways ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics?

Malaysia's Borneo has the world's highest rate of tropical forest loss. What was once an uninterrupted green canopy of intact rainforest is now a shrinking island, rapidly being replaced by logged out scrubland and agricultural plantations. Put end to end, the sprawling network of logging roads carved into Sarawak's rainforests over the past three decades would be long enough to circle the globe twice. The plight of the Penan is closely intertwined with timber consumption in Japan.

Taken from the majestic jungles of Borneo, many Sarawak trees end life as plywood on Japan's construction sites, often used to make disposable moulds to set concrete which are used two or three times and then thrown away. These moulds could be made from more sustainable materials, including wood sourced from Japan's own extensive forests. Many of Japan's forests were planted over the last century and have fallen into neglect after the domestic forestry industry was decimated by an influx of cheap timber from Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

Japan imports roughly 100 million sheets of plywood a year from Sarawak. Placed in a row they would stretch 1800 kilometers, from Tokyo to Beijing. This is the most valuable flow of tropical timber in the world.

Read more here:

<https://www.globalwitness.org/olympics/>