

*25 Years of*

**ANGOC**

*Compiled and laid out by:*  
Teresa L. Debuque

*25 Years of*

**ANGOC**

*a Silver Anniversary Report*

*1979-2004*



# Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| FOREWORD .....                                      | 6  |
| THE EARLY YEARS .....                               | 8  |
| FOOD SECURITY .....                                 | 10 |
| SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ..... | 17 |
| AGRARIAN REFORM & RESOURCE RIGHTS .....             | 24 |
| PARTICIPATORY LOCAL GOVERNANCE .....                | 28 |
| NGO SECTOR DEVELOPMENT .....                        | 31 |
| 25 YEARS OF ANGOC: A TIMELINE .....                 | 34 |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....                               | 36 |
| ANGOC MEMBERS .....                                 | 38 |
| ANGOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS .....                      | 39 |
| ANGOC REGIONAL SECRETARIAT STAFF .....              | 40 |

# Foreword

A milestone for Asian NGOs happened in February 1979. A regional network of Asian NGOs formed in the run-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD). Thereafter, ANGOC, or Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, would go on to become a lead advocate of the principles agreed at the WCARRD: equity, productivity and participation. In the years that followed — and even as ANGOC sought to re-define its work program in response to changing circumstances and development needs, the principle of sustainability was put into operation in the network's strategy.

Constant reflection, action, introspection and contemplation led ANGOC to envision a “diverse, vibrant, peaceful Asian rural communities, united by common core values, living in harmony with nature as stewards of the earth, whose members are able to: realize their full human potentials, chart their path to development, provide for their present and future needs and share equitably the fruits of their labors in community celebrations of life.”

ANGOC through the years, has always listened to the voices from below and felt as a guiding force the pulse of the masses in Asia. ANGOC pursued primarily a pro-active stance as well as responsive action to the needs of the times. It facilitated the link between the rural poor to regional and global issues of development taking always the pro-people stance in advocacy. Twenty-five years of dedicated work has brought ANGOC to understand, appreciate the multi-perspective and multi-facet intricacies in development perspectives in its participation in global debates. ANGOC continues to realize that development is not merely material, technical or financial. Top of our agenda for poverty eradication is the implementation of human values and spirituality... that is the struggle

of the human spirit to be better than itself in the service of others and noble causes.

But daunting challenges continue to plague our vision. Hunger and poverty remain a dominant condition as inequality among and within our societies aggravated. The impact of political wars and ethnic and religious conflicts in the region causes more hardships to the rural people, especially the most vulnerable sectors.

Whereas food and freedom, jobs and justice, land and labor, peace and prosperity are our rights — vigilance, reflection and action are also our collective responsibility. Towards this end, the ANGOC network seeks to mobilize, catalyze and enhance the energies and capacities of Asian NGOs to address issues that impact significantly on Asian rural communities and develop alternative models for agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, food sovereignty and rural development.

As we commemorate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we shall continue the ritual of introspection. How we contribute to the attainment of our vision continues to be an important gauge of our effectiveness as a development organization as well as our indication of our relevance in future development work in the Asian region.

We acknowledge the following persons, both living and departed, who have contributed to the growth of ANGOC as an Asian regional network:

#### ANGOC Network Members

Fazle Hasan Abed  
 Angus Archer  
 A. T. Ariyaratne  
 Jim Barnes  
 David Beckman  
 Dr. L. David Brown  
 Pers Campbell

Jim Carmichael  
Rev. Paiboon Chareonsap  
Jashwant D. Chauhan  
John Clark  
Ann Gordon Drabek  
William "Bill" Davidson  
Drs. Djatikusomo  
Fr. John Djikstra, S.J.  
Bernd Dreesmann  
Chip Fay  
Fr. Stanislaus M. Fernando, OMI  
Dr. Juan Flavier  
Chandra de Fonseca  
Sanjoy Ghose  
Julian Gonsalves  
Raul Gonzalez  
Mr. Aziz-ul Haque  
Emmanuel Haryadi  
Tony Hill  
Dr. K. Shamsul Huda  
S.K. Huda  
David "Dave" M. Ingles  
Drs. Bambang Ismawan  
Michio Ito  
Drs. Kartjono  
Dr. Obaidullah Khan  
Yuyi Kondo  
Dr. David Korten  
Mr. Tony Kozlowski  
N. Krishnaswamy  
Dr. K. Matthew Kurien  
Soetrisno Kusomahadi  
Dr. Angelita Yap-Ledesma  
Archbishop Antonio J. Ledesma, S.J.  
Dr. Antonio L. Ledesma  
Ronald Leger  
Cristina "Tina" M. Liamzon  
Ms. Carolyn Long  
Dr. Sadiq Malik  
Fr. William Masterson, S.J.  
Dr. Hans Meliczek  
Bruce Moore  
Mr. Rafael Moreno

Ms. Shimwaayi Muntemba  
Professor Osamu Muro  
Jayprakash Narayan  
Dr. Nico Newiger  
Mario Padron  
Rachel Polestico  
Mr. Wim Polman  
Dr. S.S. Puri  
Antonio "Tony" B. Quizon  
Shri Radhakrishna  
M.V. Rajasekharan  
Lilia Ramos  
Roel R. Ravanera  
G.N. Reddi  
Yellamanda Reddy  
Ms. Ute Roessing  
Mr. L.M. Samarasinghe  
A.C. Sen  
Bishan Singh  
Khun Sulak Sivaraksa  
Dr. Malee Suwana-adth  
Dr. Toshihiro Takami  
Ms. Sarah L. Timpson  
P.M. Tripathi  
Dr. Dioscoro L. Umali  
Edgardo "Edgar" T. Valenzuela  
Dr. T.C. Varghese  
Dr. Noel Vasquez, S.J.  
David Winder  
Erna Witoelar  
Patricia Young  
Former and current members of the ANGOC Board  
of Directors  
Former and present ANGOC staff

Our apologies to those whom we have missed. We  
dedicate this Silver Anniversary Report to all of  
them.

**Fr. Francis B. Lucas**  
*ANGOC Chair*

**Nathaniel Don E. Marquez**  
*Executive Director*

# The Early Years

## Early years 1

In late 1977 Chandra de Fonseka from the regional office of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bangkok, Thailand convened a meeting of regional NGOs that were based in Bangkok to inform them of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) being organized by FAO in July 1979. The meeting was meant to encourage NGO participation and involvement in the preparations for the Conference. Among the NGOs that joined this initial meeting were two trade unions—BATU/WCL and ICFTU, the Young Christian Workers (YCW) and the Asian Cultural Forum on

Development (ACFOD). A regional NGO steering group composed of these NGOs was formed, with Fr. Stanislaus Fernando of ACFOD as secretariat, in anticipation of the *Asian Campaign of People's Consultations* that was subsequently held (*i.e.*, in early 1978) to prepare the Asian input to WCARRD. Coordination with FAO was done through the Freedom from Hunger Campaign/Action for Development (FFHC/AD) unit in the Bangkok regional office. The steering group drew up the guidelines for the program and got the process going. The campaign, which was funded by the Canadian International Development

Agency (CIDA), involved NGOs in seven Asian countries, namely, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It called for direct people's consultations, village-based surveys, public hearings, and local and national workshops to draw out rural people's perception of their

situation—their problems regarding agrarian reform and rural development—and to help them seek solutions to these problems and issues. These efforts were intended to draw from a wide sampling of tenant farmers, landless laborers, artisans, fisherfolk, rural women and rural youth, and indigenous people.

Thus, consultations were held in some 20 villages in Thailand, 10 villages in the Philippines, 10 villages in Indonesia and a sampling of villages in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka. An *Asian Pre-WCARRD Regional NGO Workshop* was organized in Bangkok in February 1979 to bring together reports from various country consultations. These national NGO reports were consolidated into an Asian regional report that would later form part of the inputs into WCARRD.

## Early years 2

### Early years 3

that NGOs can play in this respect. Other activities included the preparation of newsletters or the inclusion in existing newsletters of informative material on WCARRD; and

base and the latter by seconding one staff person to handle the coordination work.

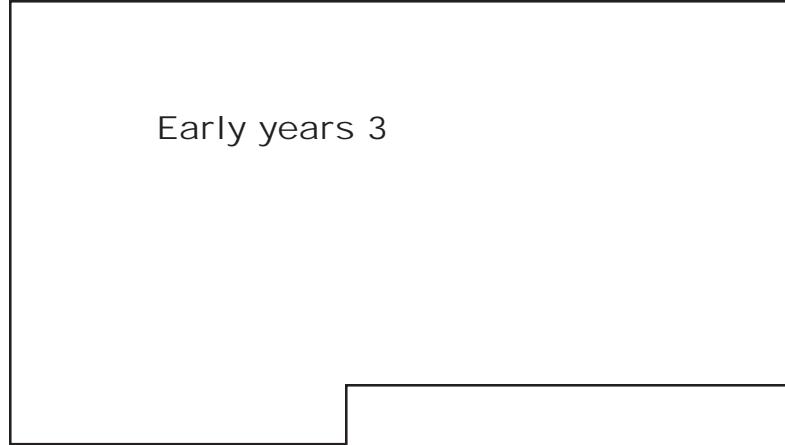
During this period in ANGOC's beginnings, mention must be made of the support, encouragement and recognition provided by the FAO

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific based in Bangkok, and the Human Resources, Institutions and Agrarian Reform Division of FAO Headquarters in Rome. Their catalytic support in the initial phase of the post-WCARRD follow-up had helped to build the institutional capability of ANGOC.

In the Asian Region, the first high-level

government consultation on the follow-up to WCARRD was held in Bangkok in November 1979. At this consultation, the need for dialogue with NGOs was discussed. The Asian NGO Post-WCARRD Regional Workshop was likewise held in Bangkok in June 1980. This NGO meeting developed a framework for NGO involvement at regional, national and local levels to stimulate NGO participation in the follow-up to WCARRD.

ANGOC also participated in the second high-level governmental meeting on the follow-up to WCARRD held in Dhaka in 1981. In collaboration with the Integrated Rural Development Unit of ESCAP, a Regional Workshop



This regional workshop likewise provided the occasion for the NGOs present to set up an NGO coalition—the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC). Those present constituted the initial network partners of ANGOC, which was founded on 14 February 1979.

Seven representatives from NGO members of ANGOC participated at the WCARRD in Rome as part of the delegation of NGOs with consultative status with FAO or governments. The Asian NGO representatives initiated a series of informal meetings with NGOs from other regions to strengthen the NGO participation at the World Conference. ANGOC participated in the drafting of a collective NGO statement at WCARRD.

### Post-WCARRD: 1979-1980

The immediate post-WCARRD period was characterized by FAO's recognition of ANGOC as the Asian regional NGO network that was



### Early years 4

responsive to WCARRD's concerns. It should be recalled that WCARRD served as a watershed in the acceptance by governments of people's participation in rural development. The WCARRD framework is known as the Peasants' Charter. Hence, the immediate post-WCARRD period was a time of exploration and initiating activities compatible with the Peasants' Charter. At the Asian regional level, a Regional NGO Steering Group was established and this served as a Task Force to provide initial direction to the various initiatives at the national level that were related to information on the conclusions at the World Conference, NGO performance at WCARRD, discussion on possibilities for post-WCARRD follow-up action and the possible roles

translation of the Peasants' Charter into various Asian dialects to make it understandable to farmers and the rural poor. The NGO community made a serious effort to make the outcomes of WCARRD as widely known at the grassroots level to keep in focus the issue of the public accountability of governments.

In terms of the networking arrangements, the post-WCARRD NGO Steering Group was composed of a variety of NGOs, including the trade unions BATU/WCL, ICFTU, and other international NGOs, i.e., the YCW, and other newly formed regional associations like ACFOD and CENDHARRA. The latter two organizations made extra efforts in ANGOC's start-up period, the former by providing an administrative

# Food Security

**T**he Right to Food is the Right to Life encapsulates the ANGOC Network's position on the importance of securing food security.

ANGOC's concern for food security has been an integral part of its earliest programs, long before the World Food Summit (WFS) in 1996 popularized the issue.

In 1992, ANGOC took a lead role in the organizing and lobbying work among NGOs at the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN), organized jointly by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). ANGOC



FS 1

## THE BANGKOK DECLARATION

FS 2

*"...We must start from the premise that international trade is not vital to food security. We must further oppose the inverted priorities of international organizations, whose valuation of food*

*security is determined by whether or not it promotes trade and investment liberalization. Instead, we must judge trade policy according to whether or not it enhances food security..."*

also prepared the Asian NGO Statement to the Conference, entitled ***"The Right to Food is the Right to Life"***.

In 1994 ANGOC embarked on a program to "Enhance Food Security through the Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture (SA)". This sought to re-focus its earlier efforts in agrarian reform, rural development and poverty alleviation and to make these "sustainable". It had become clear at the time that conventional farming practices were destroying the agricultural resource base and consequently undermining the capacity of Asia's farmers to continue producing food and earning enough out of it to support their own families. Hence,

ANGOC set out on a multi-pronged strategy that calls for the installation and upscaling of existing programs in sustainable agriculture (SA), information networking, and the re-shaping of agricultural agendas.

The "Asian Advocacy Workshop: Food Security through Sustainable Agriculture" which was organized by ANGOC in 1995 was one of the earliest expressions of this network thrust. The *International Conference on Hunger and Poverty (20-22 September 1995)* and the *Global Assembly on Food Security (8-10 October 1995)*, at which ANGOC was Steering Committee member, further solidified this commitment, as did efforts to set up SA

### 1990-95

- ▶ *International Conference on Nutrition, 1992*
- ▶ *Asian Advocacy Workshop: Food Security through Sustainable Agriculture, 1995*
- ▶ *Global Assembly on Food Security, 1995*
- ▶ *International Conference on Hunger and Poverty, 1995*

### 1996

- ▶ *Asia-Pacific Regional NGO Consultation on the World Food Summit*
- ▶ *World Food Summit*

### 1998

- ▶ *Launch of the 200 Village Project*

Learning Centers all over Asia. SA training programs, undertaken in partnership with Philippine-based institutes like Southeast Asia Rural Social Leadership Institute, or SEARSOLIN--an ANGOC regional network member-- became a regular part of ANGOC's yearly calendar.

With its participation in the WFS in Rome, Italy, in November 1996, ANGOC revved up its involvement in food security issues. Earlier that year, ANGOC had convened a

meeting of over 100 NGOs from Asia-Pacific, at which a consensus statement for the WFS was prepared. Known as the *Bangkok Declaration*, this document calls for a new social contract, and demands that food security be prioritized over profit.

Since the WFS, Food Security has become top priority for the ANGOC Network. But it was in 1998 that ANGOC truly solidified its commitment to food security, when it came up with

a Strategic Action Plan (ASAP) for 1998-2001 whose major focus was a food security program called the *200-Village Project*. (See Section on the *200-Village Project*.)

Aside from this flagship program, ANGOC intensified its policy advocacy of food security issues. In 2000 it co-organized with FAO the Asia-Pacific Regional FAO-NGO/CSO Consultation, which focused on major issues and concerns related to food security in the Asia-Pacific

Region.

In 2001 ANGOC started preparatory work for the World Food Summit-Five Years Later (WFS-fyl). It co-organized together with the International Planning Committee (IPC) two regional consultations to help consolidate the NGO/CSO sector's position on the state of food security in the Asia-Pacific region. In the Philippines it organized a roundtable discussion on the theme "Sustained Growth, Poverty and Household Food Insecu-



200 Village Project Process Chart

| 2000  | 2001   | 2002  |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <i>Asia-Pacific Regional FAO-NGO/CSO Consultation</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <i>NGO/CSO Regional Consultation on the World Food Summit-Five Years Later</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <i>Asia-Pacific NGO/CSO Regional Consultation in conjunction with the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific</i></li> <li>▶ <i>World Food Summit-Five Years Later</i></li> </ul> |

# THE 200 VILLAGE PROJECT: STATUS AND PROSPECTS

## PAKISTAN

**Country Focal Point:** RDF

**Number and Type of Villages Covered:** 20 villages: 12 lowland; 8 upland

**Sectors Involved:** 20 people's organizations/local NGOs

**Next Step:** Implementation of community projects; monitoring & documentation

## SRI LANKA

**Country focal point:** NNGOC

**Number and type of villages covered:** 20 villages: 13 lowland; 5 upland; 2 coastal-lowland

**Sectors involved:** 21 local NGOs

**Next Step:** Implementation of community projects; monitoring & documentation

## BANGLADESH

**Country focal point:** ADAB

**Number and type of villages covered:** 20 villages: 8 lowland; 4 upland; 4 coastal; 4 combination

**Sectors involved:** 20 local NGOs

**Next Step:** Implementation of community projects; monitoring & documentation

## THAILAND

**Country Focal Point:** RRAFA

**Number and Type of Villages Covered:** 19 villages: 10 rainfed lowland; 5 rainfed highland; 2 irrigated lowland; 1 coastal; 1 island

**Sectors Involved:** 15 local NGOs

**Next Step:** Implementation of community projects; monitoring & documentation

## INDONESIA

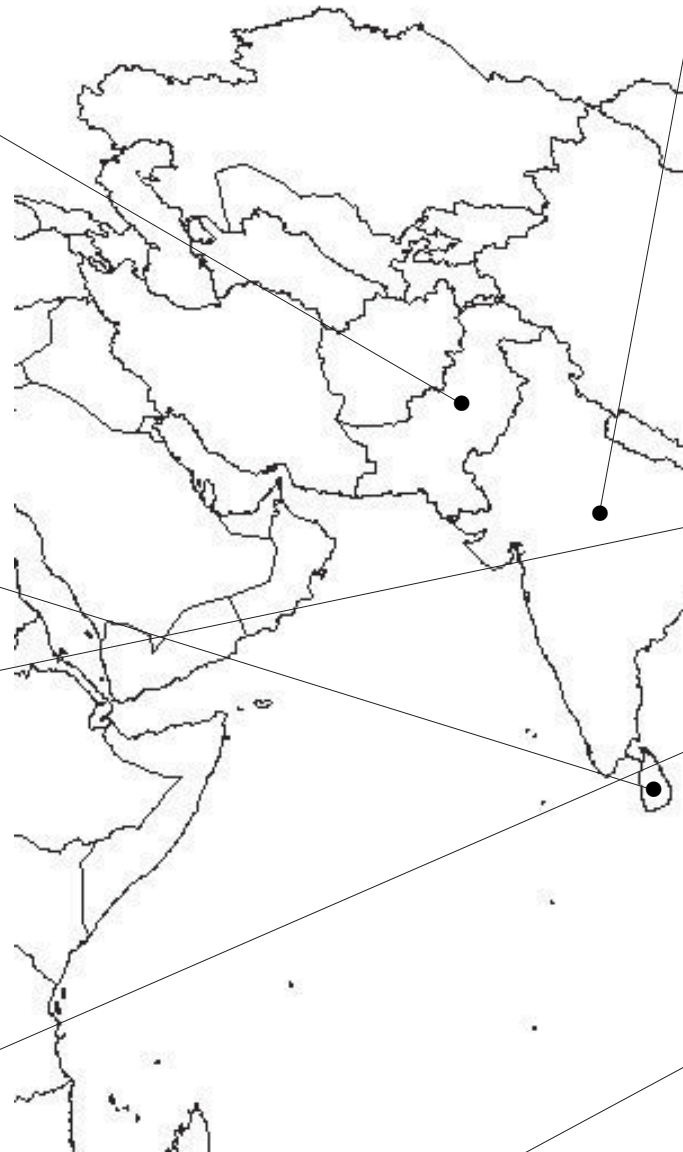
**Country Focal Point:** BINA SWADAYA, BIN

**Number and Type of Villages Covered:** 22 coastal

**Sectors Involved:** 5 local NGOs

**Next Step:** Translation of survey data; Re-en VP Database System; processing and analysis

- ▶ Implementation of community projects
- ▶ Monitoring & documentation of new projects



**INDIA**

**Country focal point:** AVARD

**Number and type of villages covered:** 20 villages: 10 upland; 7 low lying plain; 2 hilly; 1 coastal

**Sectors involved:** 21 local NGOs

**Project Status:** Monitoring & documentation of ongoing community projects; Translation of survey data; Computerized data encoding, processing and analysis for collation into the Regional Data; Implementation of additional community projects; Monitoring & documentation of new projects

**VIETNAM**

**Country Focal Point:** VAC VINA

**Number and Type of Villages Covered:** 20 villages: 5 mountainous Northwest region; 5 mountainous Northeast region; 5 Red River Delta; 5 Northern Part of Central Vietnam

**Sectors Involved:** VAC VINA Provincial Staff; community leaders; community women's union; farmers' union

**Next Step:** Monitoring & documentation of ongoing pilot community projects in 4 villages (or 120 households)  
 ► Project implementation in other villages

**PHILIPPINES**

**Country Focal Point:** PhilDHRRA

**Number and Type of Villages Covered:** 24 villages: 10 upland; 5 coastal; 3 lowland; 3 coastal-lowland; 2 upland-lowland; 1 upland-coastal

**Sectors Involved:** 5 local NGOs

**Next Step:** Implementation of community projects; monitoring & documentation

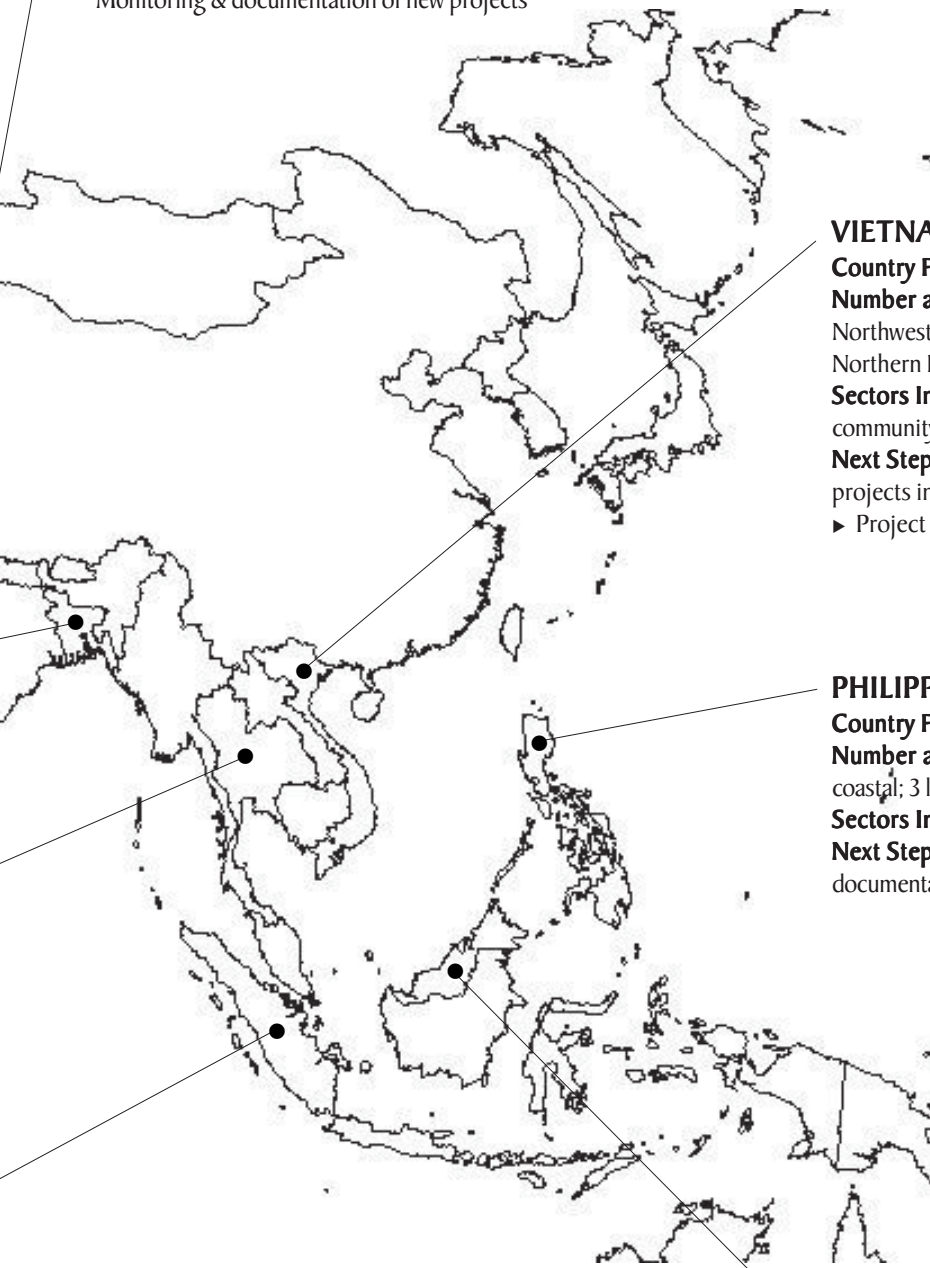
**MALAYSIA**

**Country Focal Point:** ERA Consumer

**Number and Type of Villages Covered:** 24 villages: 6 irrigated lowland; 6 rainfed lowland; 5 irrigated lowland; 4 irrigated upland/lowland; 3 rainfed upland

**Sectors Involved:** 9 people's organizations; 8 NGOs; 4 government organizations

**Next Step:** Implementation of community projects; monitoring & documentation



A DESA, KPA  
 villages: 8 lowland; 7 upland; 7

coding of survey data into the 200-  
 for collation into the Regional Data

cts



ANGOC has long been the coordinating centre for NGOs in the Asian region. UN agencies, particularly FAO, look to

ANGOC for support in activities directed towards food security and poverty alleviation. Farmers groups acknowledge it for being at the forefront of the struggle to achieve a sustainable standard of living through profitable agricultural activities.

The Sarvodaya Organization of Sri Lanka joins the rest of Asia in felicitating ANGOC for 25 years of useful activities. We wish it many years of continued service towards improving the life of farming communities in the world with special reference to Asia.

--C.R. Ekanayake  
SARVODAYA, Sri Lanka

city". The WFS-fyl in Rome was another venue to push the Network's food security agenda.

### The 200-Village Project

The 200-Village Project is founded on the conviction that food security in the home and the community is the most reliable yardstick of how effectively development programs are working to alleviate poverty. Hence, its initiatives are designed to improve food security at the level of the household and the immediate community.

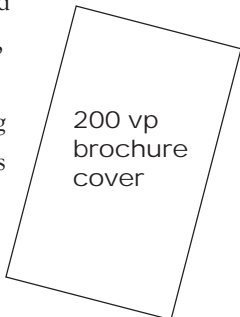
Food security, especially in the rural areas, is directly related to poverty eradication. ANGOC believes that where rural households have access to land and other resources, where production and resource management practices are sustainable, and where people are allowed and able to participate in the local government system and community development processes, poverty would be reduced and food security assured. Therefore, as a Regional Program, the entire 200-Village Project process is designed to monitor the extent

to which food security and poverty eradication initiatives have been or are being undertaken within the framework of agrarian reform and resource rights, sustainable agriculture and resource management, and participatory local governance. It seeks to empower poor communities by restoring to them the right to their lands, resources and livelihoods.

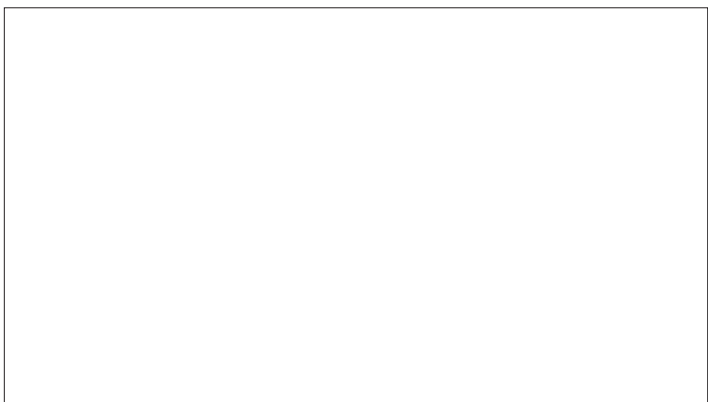
The Project has three phases: (1) baseline survey and community planning; (2) community project implementation and (3) policy advocacy. The process emphasizes participatory approaches through the involvement of the community, civil society, local governments and international agencies. Baseline survey and community planning phase consists of data gathering at household, community and country levels. Community project implementation, as follow-up phase, is a need-based approach addressing

household food insecurity. The Policy advocacy component, on the other hand, complements the whole process.

ANGOC's primary concern in terms of project management is to equip local communities and development workers with research and development tools and methodologies that would facilitate the effective participation of community members and to bring local experiences into national and regional level analysis and discussions, hence maximizing the benefits of local action.



The 200-Village Project has been implemented initially in nine (9) countries and has covered about 5,640 households in 189 villages. The countries include Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philip-



**2003**

► Follow-up meeting of the Asian Regional Focal Points of the International Planning Committee with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

**2004**

► Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Consultation in conjunction with the FAO Regional Conference of Asia and the Pacific

## 200-VILLAGE PROJECT PRELIMINARY SURVEY RESULTS

- ☞ A rural household typically earns about 3.0 US\$ per day. Sixty per cent (60%) of its income is derived from agricultural sources.
- ☞ Forty per cent (40%) of households are food secure while 26% of the households are highly food insecure.
- ☞ There is a positive correlation between food security and access to land:
  - ☞ Food insecurity tends to occur alongside low farm productivity levels.
  - ☞ Food insecure households have little access to credit both for farm and non-farm expenses.
- ☞ Shifting to high-input conventional agriculture is not a guarantee of food security.
- ☞ Food security is best assured when there is sufficient production capital; when incomes improve; and when there is greater access to land and credit.

piners, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. ADAB, AVARD, BINA SWADAYA and BINA DESA, ERA-Consumers, RDF, PhilDHRRRA, NNGOC, RRAFA and VAC VINA, mostly national NGO networks act as *Country Focal Points (CFPs)*, respectively. NGO partners in Cambodia, Nepal and China expressed interest and have been exploring possible support for implementation.

The major activities conducted in the first phase

(Baseline Survey and Community Planning) include national and village meetings, PRA training, household surveys, community profiling, preparation of national food security situationers, regional conferences and regional training. The household survey and community profiling were conducted through the efforts of some 17 NGO Networks in the selected countries and with the participation of around 125 community-based NGOs/POs. The *Technical Working*

Group (TWG) and the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) helped in the development of the Project management, design and methodology. A preliminary baseline survey regional report (covering 5 countries) was generated and presented in the FAO-NGO/CSO Consultation in Yokohama, Japan, August 2000 and in Bangkok, Thailand, August 2001. The findings and the overall initiative were also highlighted in a number of publications of ANGOC and its partners.

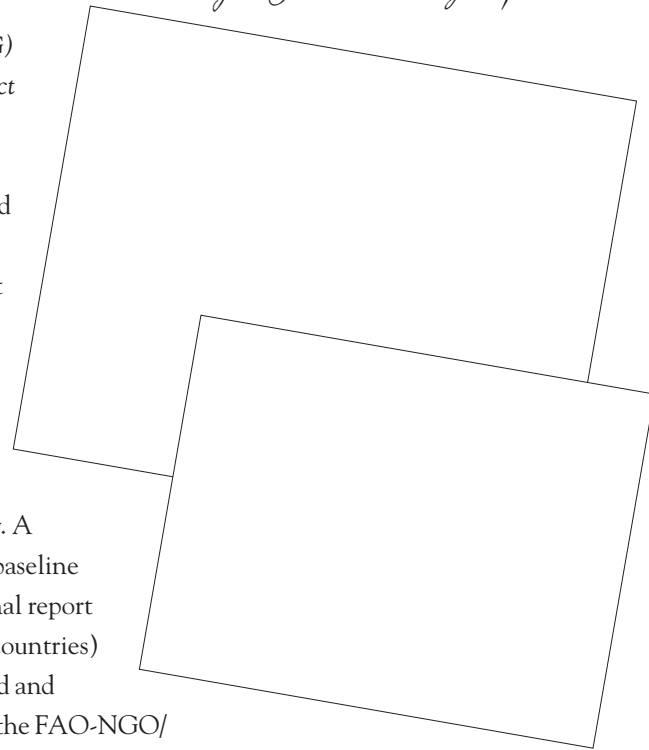
The diagram on pages 12 to 13 provides information on the status of the Project and future activities per country.

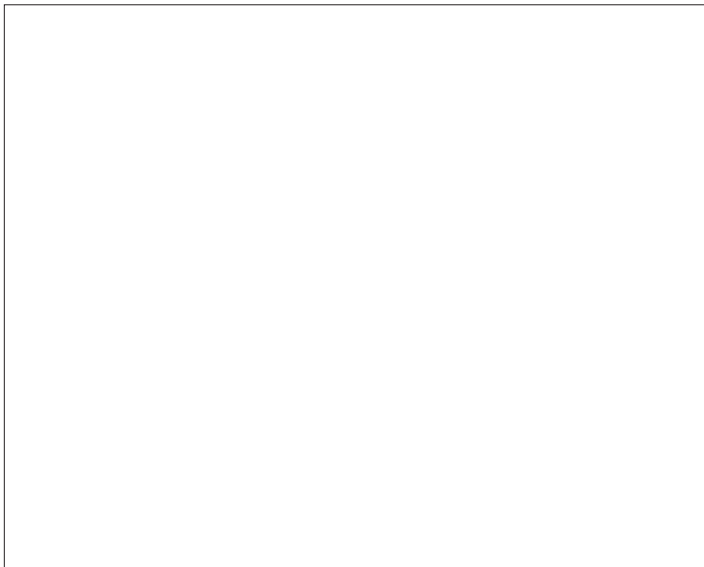
### Community Projects (Phase II)

Based on the initial results highlighted above, enhancing access to productive resources (land, water, credit, market) -- through agrarian reform, greater investment in agriculture and alternative rural financing -- has been identified as key to achieving household food security. In addition, promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, especially among resource poor farmers, and support for community actions

to overcome hunger and poverty have been strongly proposed.

The preliminary results of the first phase clearly suggest certain areas for community interventions and possible initiatives in addressing food security problems. For instance, on-going projects in Vietnam are focusing on sustainable local farming practices at the household-level while community projects in India are primarily concerned with participatory local governance. A number of community projects are already being formulated by the Country Focal Points and local NGO partners. Some of these projects include food security improvement of farming households through increased production, improved delivery of agricultural training and extension services to farming communities, empowerment of and provision of alternative livelihood to the tribal





(SNGOs) met for the first time to consult with SNGOs on the kind of experiences they have had in capacity-building, the challenges they faced, and their priorities. Consultations were initially held in South and Southeast Asia, and subsequently in Melanesia and Polynesia, and in Latin America and Africa.

The second stage of the work involved studying the policies and programs of donors, particularly how the latter perceive capacity building of SNGOs.

This working group eventually constituted the

International Forum on Capacity-Building (IFCB).

Since 1999 ANGOC has been a member of the Steering Committee of the IFCB.

ANGOC has been involved in the following activities for the IFCB:

- ▶ Information dissemination;
- ▶ Documentation of best practice;
- ▶ Convening of national and regional dialogues;
- ▶ Conduct of a survey of capacity building needs of NGOs; and
- ▶ Conduct of a study of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s capacity building programs for NGOs. ■

communities, income and nutrition improvement of rural people through improved crop production and marketing, and improvement of community water supply infrastructure, among others. ■

## NGO Sector Development

*Continued from page 33*  
book on the Marketing and Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture Products; (3) a Resourcebook on Enhancing Access to Land and Common

Property Resources; and (4) a Resourcebook on Enhancing Participation.

### Building multi-stakeholder partnerships

A multi-stakeholder approach to building the capacity of NGOs or civil society organizations is an important feature of ANGOC's capacity-building program.

In 1996 an international working group on capacity building of Southern NGOs

**One of ANGOC's most important contributions to development work in Asia is its acceptance on August 2001 of CANGO as member. With this move, a window to international development work opened up in China.**

**With regard to the future of ANGOC, I envision it becoming famous for its databanking expertise, providing consulting services, particularly in research and NGO development, and facilitating information dissemination, for example, through case studies, cooperation channels and model building.**

**I believe that ANGOC shall become one of the most successful NGOs in Asia.**

*--Haoming Huang  
CANGO, China*

# Sustainable Agriculture & Resource Management

The first incarnation of this Program can be traced to the late 1980s when, in connection with the Network's

involvement in the Citizens' Campaign on Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), ANGOC undertook an environmental campaign strategy that aimed to:

- ▶ Generate increased public interest and policy support (among Banks and Governments) for direct environmental projects;
- ▶ Explore and promote alternatives in dealing with issues of foreign debt (e.g., debt-for-equity and debt-for-nature swaps); and
- ▶ Increase the public accountability of MDBs and Governments by instituting a

principle of transparency and by giving an increased role to NGOs in needs assessment, project review, environmental impact monitoring and evaluation, and direct project implementation.

However, what set apart ANGOC's approach to the environment from the purely conservationist posture was that it tried to establish a link between poverty and environmental problems, or in a manner more critically relevant to developing country settings.



facilitate the exchange of experiences and efforts in this field. It was also designed to provide opportunities for

NGOs to develop their strategic management capabilities in order to effectively translate their community-based initiatives in SD into national development strategies.

The SD Program had two core projects : the Citizens Campaign on MDBs (Please see section on Participatory Local Governance on page 28) and preparations for the Network's involvement in the United Nations Conference on

In 1989 ANGOC formally adopted a Sustainable Development (SD) Program in response to the global call to take concerted action to address problems of environment and development. At the time, there were already a number of initiatives being undertaken in the name of SD, but these were largely disparate and needed to be documented if they were to be replicated in future. ANGOC's SD Program was intended to provide the channels and the venue to

| 1989  | 1990  | 1992   |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Inter-Regional Consultation on People's Participation in Environmentally Sustainable Development</li> <li>▶ Start of the Citizens' Campaign on MDBs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Southeast Asia Regional Consultation on People's Participation in Environmentally Sustainable Development</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Participation in the UN Conference on Environment and Development and in the parallel Int'l. NGO Forum</li> </ul> |

Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992.

### Towards UNCED

In 1989, ANGOC organized in Manila, the Inter-Regional Consultation on People's Participation in Environmentally Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Environmental Liaison Center International. This consultation produced "The Manila Declaration on People's Participation and Sustainable Development," which provided the framework for a series of regional and national consultations on the role of NGOs in promoting SD. These consultations in turn were aimed to formulate the NGO input to the UNCED.

The Southeast Asia Regional Consultation on People's Participation in Environmentally Sustainable Development followed the next year culminating in a series of national consultations in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. The Consultation was part of a series of regional consultations anchored by key NGOs in Africa, Asia, Europe, South and North America. It was designed to create broad-based consensus among grassroots organizations, scientists, the media, academicians and

NGOs on activating people's action on SD and to promote information exchanges at the local, national and regional level. The results of the regional consultations were later to be consolidated in time for the UNCED.

This gathering spun off to the formation of a Regional Consortium—the Southeast Asia Consortium for People's Participation in Environmentally Sustainable Development (SEACON).

SEACON was made up of ANGOC, the Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD), the Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology Practitioners (APPROTECH-ASIA), Management Institute for Social Change (MINSOC), Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI), Green Forum Philippines, and SVITA Foundation.

In 1991 ANGOC sought to clarify the bias of its SD program by renaming it as the "Sustainable Development, Environmental Action and Poverty Alleviation" Program. Its objective was to "empower disadvantaged sectors so that they can gain access to and control over society's natural resources for their own sustainable development". ANGOC saw its role as facilitating awareness-raising and consensus-building and providing the "Asian voice" in

## THE PUNCAK PASS DECLARATION

**"Our vision calls for equity-led strategies that give priority to achieving a broad participatory ownership, control and management of natural resources by local people to serve their own needs as the essential foundation for a just, sustainable and inclusive economic growth."**

international gatherings.

In the run-up to the UNCED, ANGOC strengthened its horizontal linkages through its networking activities and through its membership in a number of international committees: the International Facilitating Committee of the Independent Sectors, the International Steering Committee of the Environmental Liaison Centre International, the Steering Committee of the International NGO Forum, and the NGO/Media Working Group of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asian and the Pacific (ESCAP), all of which were engaged in preparatory work for the UNCED.

In all of these fora, ANGOC played a lead role in facilitating NGO consultations, and in consolidating the NGO position and recommendations on development and environment issues as input to the UNCED. ANGOC helped create consensus among 500 groups in Asia in preparation

for the Earth Summit.

ANGOC actively participated in NGO lobbying work at the official UNCED PrepCom Meetings held in Nairobi, Geneva, and New York.

ANGOC continued its active participation at the UNCED itself, as well as at the parallel meeting of NGOs organized by INGOF on 1-10 June 1992 at Flamengo Park in Rio de Janeiro. At that meeting ANGOC was part of the facilitating team responsible for hammering out three alternative NGO treaties—on fresh water, food security, and sustainable agriculture.

FARM brochure cover

### 1993

- ▶ *Strategic Network decision to advance the Sustainable Development Agenda in the Asian region in connection with Agenda 21 implementation*
- ▶ *2nd Asian Development Forum: "Sustainable Agriculture Towards Food Security and Enhanced Quality of Life"*

### 1994

- ▶ *Start of ANGOC involvement in the Farmer Centered Agricultural Resource Management (FARM) Program*
- ▶ *Sustainable Agriculture becomes the Network's primary strategy to pursue its Food Security agenda in the Asian region*
- ▶ *Membership in the Steering Committee of the Sustainable Agriculture Networking and Extension (SANE) Program*

**FARM**

In 1993 ANGOC was commissioned as a key player in the People-Centered Sustainable Development sub-program of the UNDP/FAO-sponsored Farmer Centered Agricultural Resource Management (FARM) Program, which involved eight Asian countries from 1994 to 1998.

**Promoting Sustainable Development**

“Economy, Ecology and Spirituality: TOWARDS A THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SUSTAINABILITY” was a monograph published by ANGOC, together with IRED-Asia and the People Centered Development Forum (PCDF) in 1993. This monograph was the result of a meeting among NGO leaders in 1992. It provides insights gleaned from various efforts to put the principles of sustainable development to work. This monograph has been used as an instructional material in universities, and has been translated to Tamil and Thai.

**Sustainable Agriculture Goes into High Gear**

In 1994, and alongside a major change in ANGOC's program strategy, sustainable

We at AVARD have had a long-standing reciprocal relationship with ANGOC as a member of this regional NGO network in Asia. Accordingly, I am pleased to reflect on ANGOC in retrospect and prospect.

Looking back, vivid memories of a series of vital events and processes come to mind. They include a series of meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops on a variety of important themes such as agrarian reform, rural development, sustainable agriculture, food security and an Asian Development Agenda at venues rotated across the region. ANGOC has regularly organized and facilitated the interface and interaction of the Asian NGOs with FAO, IFAD, APDC, ESCAP, other UIN agencies, World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. The Asian Development Forum (ADF) organized by ANGOC for five years in the early 1990s stand out as a unique and rewarding process because it has promoted and facilitated the representation of a cross-section of Asian NGOs in a series of vital global and regional events and processes.

All of ANGOC's sponsored events and processes have been very well planned, well-organized and well documented. Its high quality documentation, vital information sharing and pleasant NGO culture merit special mention. On the whole, ANGOC has established itself as the most active NGO network on agrarian reform and rural development in the region. But for it, there would have been a glaring gap in NGO networking in the region.

It is difficult to pinpoint ANGOC's most important contribution to development work in Asia. Almost all of its initiatives and activities have been equally significant. However, the sustained deliberations through the ADF on an Asian Development Agenda may be considered as its most important, unique and enriching contribu-

tion. Apart from this, ANGOC has demonstrated its effectiveness in regional networking on agrarian reform and rural development, which involves a dynamic relationship and process of friendship, cooperation and interaction among NGOs in the region.

In future, ANGOC should continue to play the active and purposeful role of an effective regional NGO network. This would necessitate reviewing and updating the people-centered Asian Development Agenda to humanize and Asianize globalization not only so that Asian communities can withstand its adverse impacts but likewise to maximize its benefits for the common people and disadvantaged sectors in the region. It should continue to take up and address burning themes and issues related to agrarian reform and rural development, in particular, and people-centered socio-economic development at large in the region. It should also continue to promote and facilitate the interface and interaction between Asian NGOs and various global and regional multilateral agencies.

Meanwhile, ANGOC may try to initiate another innovative forum and process like the ADF to deliberate on and delineate a fresh Asian Development Agenda in the current context. As already decided, it should enhance its membership and outreach carefully to include countries that had been previously left out as well as eligible NGOs in the region, all the while trying to achieve gender balance and weeding out dormant members. It should regenerate, strengthen and maintain its truly regional character and enhance its visibility not only in the region but globally. All this may seem like a tall order, given the scarcity of resources to match.

Nevertheless, where there is a will, there is a way and I wish ANGOC a very bright future.

*P.M. Tripathi  
AVARD  
India*

| 1996   | 1997-2000   | 2004  |
|--|---|---|
| ▶ ANGOC publishes a Resource Book on Sustainable Agriculture | ▶ Grassroots initiative to promote sustainable agriculture practices in Dansolihon, Cagayan de Oro, Philippines | ▶ ANGOC publishes a policy paper on Sustainable Agriculture |

## SA4

agriculture (SA) became the Network's main strategy in pursuing Food Security in Asia. The promotion of SA was undertaken through a three-pronged approach which included:

*Installing and upscaling SA programs.* ANGOC sought to make SA a major component of its members' and partners' programs by developing a cadre of SA trainers and establishing learning centers in the region.

*Information networking.* ANGOC facilitated information exchanges among NGOs, farmers organizations and resource institutions working on food and agriculture concerns.

For instance, in 1994 ANGOC co-convened a regional consultation of 15 regional and national NGO networks and institutions involved in SA. It later became part of the Steering Committee of the Sustainable Agriculture Networking and Extension (SANE) Program for Asia. SANE is a program initiated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to enhance capability building

and human resource development in SA through agro-ecological training, participatory research, policy advocacy and information networking among NGOs and other organizations in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

In 1995 ANGOC began its search for SA Learning Centers in Asia, particularly Thailand and Japan. It also strengthened linkages with NGOs in Indochina. For instance, through the SANE-Asia program, ANGOC firmed up its partnership with the SA Forum (SAF) in Laos. In Cambodia it linked up with the Socio-Economic Development Organization of Cambodia (SEDOC) in conducting a survey of 22 local and international NGOs involved in SA. In Vietnam, contacts were made with international NGOs in Hanoi, particularly the Quaker Service Vietnam, OXFAM-Belgium, OXFAM-UK and the NGO Resource Center. Meanwhile, in the Philippines, ANGOC assisted the Philippine Development Assistance Programme (PDAP) in developing its SA Program.

ANGOC also started work

on its SA Database. It also began compiling information on NGOs, people's organizations and resource institutions involved in SA. This information was later to form part of a Resource Guidebook on Sustainable Agriculture published by ANGOC in 1996.

*Shaping Asia's agricultural agenda.* ANGOC undertook a two-fold challenge to hold governments and intergovernmental organizations accountable for their pronouncements on the need for a more environmentally sustainable agriculture system, and to translate these pronouncements into concrete and implementable programs and activities. The second was to campaign for people's participation in public policy debates on food and agriculture.

### On-the-Ground Initiatives

On-the-ground initiatives in SA were another important aspect of ANGOC's SA Program.

In 1995 and with financial and technical support from FAO/Integrated Pest Management, ANGOC sought to promote IPM in Infanta, Quezon province, Philippines. ANGOC facilitated the training for staff of ICDAI, an NGO based in Infanta. It also helped put up farmers' field schools teaching IPM as well

as provided materials and advice.

ANGOC also started organizing cross-visits for farmers all over the Asian region to promote the shift to SA. In 1998 ANGOC sponsored with Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) a cross-visit to SA farms in Kyushu, Japan for farmers from Cambodia, Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines.

1999 was a watershed year for the Network's grassroots SA involvement. After facilitating the awarding of stewardship contracts (guaranteeing 25-50 year tenure) to hundreds of upland farmers in Barangay Dansolihon, in Cagayan de Oro, Southern Philippines, ANGOC introduced SA technologies to rehabilitate the mostly denuded upland areas.

In most areas, contour farming was established to prevent soil erosion and for better water management. Hedgerows were planted with flamengia, rensoni, ipil-ipil, madre de cacao, black pepper, pineapple and others. Between

hedgerows, peanuts and mungo beans were planted not only to improve the quality of the soil but also to increase productivity and income.

Another key component of ANGOC's SA intervention in Dansolihon was reforestation. In Bgy Bayanga, 550 hectares classified as timberlands were declared as part of the Integrated Social Forestry

Program. These denuded lands were planted with different varieties of hardwoods and fruit trees like acacia mangium, g-melina, narra, cashew, mango, jackfruit, santol and others. Individual and communal nurseries were also established to hasten the reforestation program. Seedlings of cash crops and trees were distributed both for the purpose of reforestation and earning

additional family and organizational income.

A year later, when the farmers had started to produce enough to sell in the market, ANGOC set up a Farmers Trading Center with funding support from the Japanese Embassy in the Philippines. This alternative marketing system aimed to create a direct producer-consumer link between organic farm producers in Dansolihon and households and other buyers in Cagayan de Oro City.

The project included:

- ▶ Hauling of agricultural and non-agricultural products from the producer communities;
- ▶ Regular distribution and collection of order slips;
- ▶ Packaging and storage of products;
- ▶ Delivery of orders; and
- ▶ Production and distribution of promotional materials

SA products, particularly rice, were delivered directly to 170 households and 10 institutions in Cagayan de Oro City. Eventually, the Trading Center diversified into non-agricultural products like pottery and handicrafts.

Sustainable Agriculture in 2004 in order to:

- ▶ Review its past framework on Sustainable Agriculture given the shifts in agricultural development in the region;
- ▶ Guide the Secretariat and the membership in enhancing programs to promote sustainable agriculture practices; and
- ▶ Draw up points for advocacy of sustainable agriculture as a viable strategy for food security and poverty alleviation. 📌

**A**NGOC views Sustainable Agriculture as a holistic approach to farming that is characterized by regenerative techniques inspired by indigenous knowledge systems.

ANGOC believes that Sustainable Agriculture is more than an "alternative" farming method but in fact predates conventional agriculture by thousands of years. It is embedded in Asia's long tradition of food self-sufficiency. As such, ANGOC believes that Sustainable Agriculture is one of the most effective ways to promote food security, especially among underdeveloped agricultural countries.

ANGOC's commitment to Sustainable Agriculture is rooted in its vision of "Vibrant Asian Rural Communities living in harmony with Nature as stewards of the Earth..." The ANGOC Network declares that natural resources are the ultimate source of life and all wealth should be protected against indiscriminate use and exploitation.

ANGOC believes that sustainable food production is best achieved by promoting a form of agriculture that raises farm productivity and diversity while keeping external inputs to a minimum and if possible sourcing them locally.

## Networking and Policy Advocacy

More recently, ANGOC has focused on networking and policy advocacy. ANGOC published a Policy Paper on

# FUTURE INTERVENTIONS IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

**A**fter 10 years of implementing the sustainable agriculture program, ANGOC is in a position to institutionalize some of the gains to further the promotion of sustainable agriculture in the region. The first critical area of intervention is the systematic management of information on sustainable agriculture with a particular focus on conserving indigenous knowledge related to agriculture. This would be a valuable contribution to the global community in its search for viable options that would address the needs of the rural poor.

The second recommendation deals with institutionalizing the training on sustainable agriculture. While existing training programs have been effective in promoting sustainable agriculture among farmers, there is a need to mainstream these programs to reach young professionals, agriculture technicians and bureaucrats in agriculture agencies.

With the inclusion of agriculture in international trade, farmers are forced to engage the market. One area where sustainable agriculture practitioners have an advantage is on the marketing of organic products. The third recommendation encourages ANGOC to intervene in facilitating the formulation of regional standards and hopefully making an inroad in enhancing regional trade.

The fourth recommendation is for ANGOC to continue its policy advocacy work building on the gains that it has achieved in the last 10 years. Given the renewed emphasis of governments and intergovernmental organizations in agriculture, it should aggressively promote sustainable agriculture as the way to address poverty in the region.

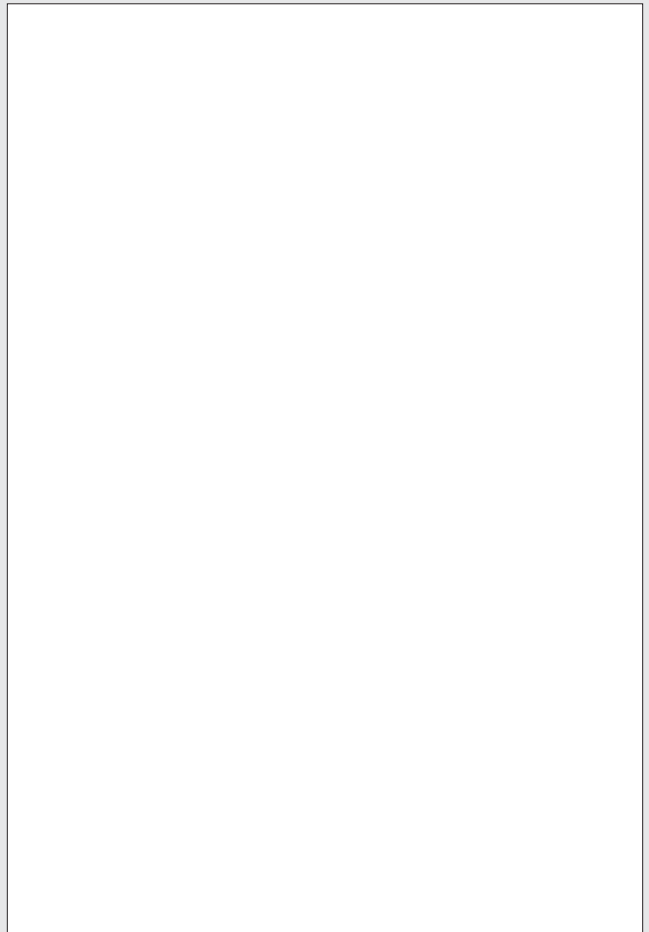
## **Building on ANGOC's Information System on SA**

The indigenous knowledge system serves as major source of information in the development of sustainable agriculture technologies and practices.

It brings with it the characteristics of sustainability, adaptability and applicability. Combined with modern science, it can provide valuable contributions in pursuing agricultural development.

Many of the NGO innovations reflect these indigenous practices. Some NGOs have taken on initiatives to document and share this knowledge through study tours, workshops and publications. But most of the information has been left with individual NGOs as they have remained either undocumented or unavailable to other interested organizations. There is a need to enhance the documentation processes and to improve the flow of information among NGOs and other organizations.

ANGOC can contribute to this process given its broad reach among local NGOs and its expertise in documentation. In strengthening its information system, ANGOC may invest in



the development of tools for documentation, innovate collection and compiling systems and explore various media in the dissemination of knowledge including translation in local languages to reach the rural communities.

The parameters for this initiative should be clarified with participating organizations at the start including identification of priority agenda, data ownership and shared responsibilities.

## **Institutionalizing SA through Formal Courses in Universities**

NGO initiatives to promote SA have had successes on the ground particularly on the goals of reducing use of pesticides and inorganic fertilizers. Government and research institutions, whether encouraged by these initiatives or are doing them on their own, have adopted and incorporated these goals in their

programs. Many of the government programs now include integrated pest management and integrated nutrient management. Some use different terminologies but essentially working on the same goals.

A number of other technological innovations are also being initiated on the ground and have the potential to have significant impact on agricultural development. But most of these initiatives are small, isolated and remain at the local level. These initiatives may be upscaled and mainstreamed. The mainstreaming can be done at the district or national or even at the regional level.

At the regional level, a strategic intervention would be in building a resource pool of sustainable agriculture experts placed in critical positions of development agencies, local government units and academic institutions who are more receptive to change and would have a multiplier effect in their reach. Offering masters degree and diploma courses where young professionals can build on their careers may facilitate this objective.

ANGOC is well placed to initiate these courses. It has direct links with the grassroots initiatives, members providing training on sustainable agriculture with their own institutes and a strategic link with international research organizations and agricultural universities.

ANGOC will identify academic institutions where these courses may be lodged as part of their degree offerings. Universities in Asia as well as those in the other regions can jointly sponsor these courses to harness various expertise. Through this arrangement, the courses will also have an international perspective that is important in understanding the regional and global context.

The courses and degree may take the form of correspondence school or distance education that would allow young professionals to enroll without necessarily giving up their jobs. This will be complemented by practicum or field practice that will be conducted in the nearest identified farms or communities. NGOs with sustainable agriculture projects can also serve

as extension schools for practicum or apprenticeships.

### **Formulating Regional Standards for Organic Products**

The uneven flow of agricultural products between developed and developing countries may take decades to be corrected. Some NGOs have recommended regional trade among Asian countries as one option to address this imbalance. Trade among Asian countries will help stabilize supply and demand problems in the medium term and strengthen the regional trading block in the long term.

One commodity where NGOs can take the lead in facilitating regional trade in agriculture is in the organic products. The land area and the number of farms devoted to organic agriculture are increasing. Moreover, the markets for organic products are growing rapidly not only in developed but in developing countries as well. In 2001, the total world retail sale is estimated at US\$ 19 billion, up from US\$ 16 billion in 2000 (IFOAM, 2003).

Given the high demand of organic products and the premium price that goes with them, it is expected that many, including agribusiness corporations would sale their produce as organics. Setting up the organic standards and product certification are therefore key interventions in ensuring the quality of the products. In many Asian countries, standardization and certification are just starting and may take a while before national systems will be put in place. Fortunately, many governments are taking interest in the organic industry that could hasten the process.

For now, sustainable agriculture practitioners enjoy some lead-time in farm conversion. Also, organic processes are labor intensive and favor rural communities as they have substantial number of unemployed. ANGOC can assist in ensuring competitiveness of small farmers and rural communities by taking a lead in the formulation of organic standards at the regional level. In some of the countries that have started to set up organic standards, NGOs play

some critical roles. ANGOC would be in the position to bring these groups together as many of them are ANGOC partners.

### **Strengthening ANGOC's Advocacy Role and Agenda**

The renewed interest of governments and international organizations in agriculture as a result of increasing poverty in the region provides an opportunity for ANGOC to promote sustainable agriculture. In the consultations that are being conducted, ANGOC and its partners should aggressively lobby for the institutionalization of SA in government programs with corresponding budget allocations.

The UN Millennium Development Goals can provide the framework for dialogue between NGOs and government representatives. NGOs can demand accountability of these institutions on their commitments while recommending sustainable agriculture as the better option for rural poor communities towards poverty reduction.

While holding dialogues with Asian governments, ANGOC should also participate in the campaigns advocating for fair trade and greater access to agricultural technologies. The uneven trade in agriculture and increasing privatization of natural resources continue to be a major constraint to the development of rural communities.

The complexity of debates at the international level, however, has excluded local NGOs and rural communities. ANGOC should strive to educate its members and partners for them to better inform rural communities of current global issues and trends. This will allow rural communities to prepare and innovate for them to face the consequences. The mechanisms for dialogue in the past that have worked well for ANGOC can still be used in its development education. ■

--BY ROEL R. RAVANERA  
(Excerpted from "ANGOC's Strategic Interventions on Sustainable Agriculture, 2004-2010")

# Agrarian Reform & Resource Rights

In commemorating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, ANGOC inevitably traces its roots to the *World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development* (WCARRD) that was held in Rome in July 1979. Preparatory work for the WCARRD had led to the formation of ANGOC in February 1979. More importantly, the principles agreed at that historic Rome meeting were to set the agenda for the fledgling organization's work.

In the early 1980s, ANGOC was involved in the preparation of national reports on WCARRD follow-up action. In 1982, ANGOC implemented a project on Rural Community Participation, along with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Center for Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific

(CIRDAP). The project involved six Asian countries and led to the formation of a joint Government/NGO mechanism to follow up on WCARRD commitments, with ANGOC and CIRDAP as focal points.

To intensify and continue promoting dialogue between Governments and NGOs in the follow-up to WCARRD, ANGOC organized in 1985 an Asian NGO Regional Work-

shop on Rural Development Cooperation. This started a series of national meetings among governments, NGOs, and donor agencies to promote dialogue, build stronger ties, coordinate working relationships, and identify areas of cooperation.

At the same time, ANGOC actively engaged in advocacy for agrarian reform. In the Philippines ANGOC played a key role in the

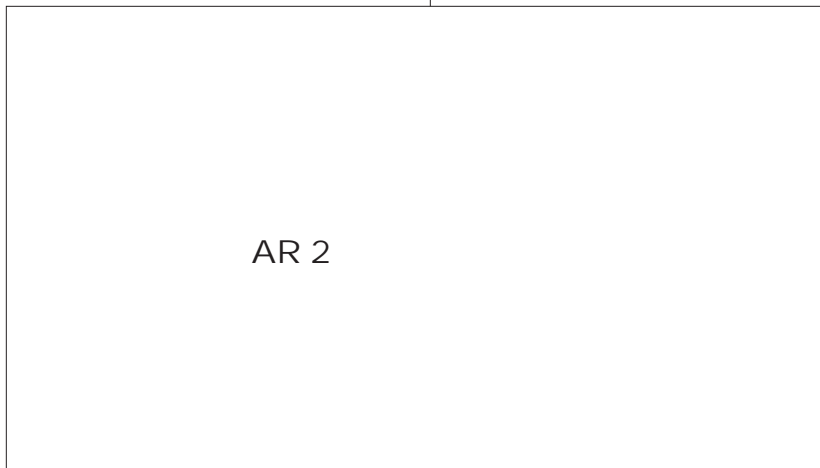
organization of the Congress for a People's Agrarian Reform (CPAR), which brought together some 225 representatives from the major farmers' associations, peasant federations, rural development NGOs, and government and donor agencies to discuss the agrarian reform agenda in the Philippines.

In the years that followed, and even as ANGOC continually re-defined its work program in response to changing circumstances and development needs, ANGOC made a conscious effort to align its programs along the

organization of the Congress for a People's Agrarian Reform (CPAR), which brought together some 225 representatives from the major farmers' associations,

peasant federations, rural development NGOs, and government and donor agencies to discuss the agrarian reform agenda in the Philippines.

In the years that followed, and even as ANGOC continually re-defined its work program in response to changing circumstances and development needs, ANGOC made a conscious effort to align its programs along the



| 1979  | 1987-97   | 1998   |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Preparation of national reports on WCARRD follow-up, early 1980s</li> <li>▶ Lobbying in support of grassroots action in the Philippines to amend the agrarian reform law, 1987-1989</li> <li>▶ Involvement in grassroots led action on agrarian reform in the Philippines--Carruf and Mapalad, 1997</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Formation of Knowledge Network on Agrarian Reform; ANGOC designated as Regional Focal Point for Southeast Asia</li> </ul> |

principles and action programme drawn up at WCARRD. Through its members, ANGOC partnered with NGOs involved in advocacy efforts for agrarian reform (AR), and critically collaborated with government to maximize benefits from State-supported AR programs.

It also intensified its advocacy and action-oriented involvement in other sectors, such as small-scale fisheries development. In 1988 ANGOC conducted a series of national consultations on small-scale fisheries development. These meetings culmi-

nated in a Southeast Asian Regional Consultation involving representatives of fisherfolk organizations, government, and international development agencies.

By 1997, ANGOC was actively linking its advocacy efforts for macro-policy reforms with local level or grassroots action. The Regional Secretariat deployed its resources and staff to assist sugar farmers in Bukidnon, Southern Philippines that were being kept out of land that had been awarded to them under the government's AR Program. Together with a local NGO,

ANGOC facilitated meetings between the farmers and government offices, and eventually helped get the farmers securely installed in the disputed estate. ANGOC also co-produced a video documentary of the sugar farmers' crusade.

The year 1998 marked a shift in the Network's strategy to pursue agrarian reform. Along with ANGOC's other traditional programs, the Agrarian Reform and Resource Rights (ARRR) Program was subsumed under what has since become and remains ANGOC's flagship program: Food Security.

As a sub-program, ARRR was envisioned to promote community access to resources by empowering people to exercise their legal and cultural rights. In this regard, ANGOC committed to undertake a number of specific activities, broadly classified under three categories:

- ▶ Networking;
- ▶ Policy Advocacy; and
- ▶ On-the-ground Initiatives.

### Networking

One important venue for ANGOC's networking activities is its partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). In 1995, ANGOC served as a member of the Steering

Committee for IFAD International Conference on Hunger and Poverty- Programme of Action - held in Brussels. The statement which came out of that conference, and which ANGOC helped to draft, highlighted the need to bring back agrarian reform into the international agenda.

ANGOC later became the Southeast Asia focal point of the Knowledge Network on Agrarian Reform (AR-Net). The AR-Net was an offshoot of another network initiative, i.e., the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty--renamed in 2003 as the International Land Coalition (ILC)-- which is housed by IFAD.

AR-Net was designed to help link up groups and local civil society led initiatives in land and agrarian reform. Specifically, it aims to:

- ▶ Identify and document the activities of various civil society organizations that have undertaken or facilitated land reform and tenurial improvement to the advantage of the poorer and weaker segments of the rural population in different socio-economic, political and ecological contexts;
- ▶ Identify important macro processes, obstacles and experiences concerning land reform;
- ▶ Draw out the policy implications of collected experi-

## The Spirit of WCARRD lives on

**We, the ANGOC Network participating at the WCARRD 20/20 express our deep disappointment that over the past 20 years, little has been achieved in terms of the program of action, especially on agrarian reform...**

**We in ANGOC believe nevertheless that the WCARRD contains the elements of a program that remains as relevant today as it was 20 years ago, even while recognizing significant shifts in the socio-political and economic environment that have negatively affected the context of agrarian reform and rural development--the decline of the role of the State, the rise of the market, and expanding trade liberalization and economic liberalization.**

**Furthermore, we stress the importance that must be given today to issues which were not adequately covered in the WCARRD, issues on: sustainability, the ethics of genetically modified organisms, the increased role of women in decision-making on food production, the imperative of people's empowerment, the participation of the indigenous people and recognition of their rights, and the review of trade agreements as they impact on food security.--From ANGOC's Statement on the 20th Anniversary of WCARRD, issued at the "WCARRD 20/20 Conference", October 6-7, 1999**

| 1999                         | 2001   | 2005   |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| ▶ 20th anniversary of WCARRD | ▶ Publication of ANGOC's Resource Book on Agrarian Reform<br>▶ Launch of LAND Partnerships | ▶ Publication of ANGOC's Policy Paper on Agrarian Reform |

AR3

ences in both national and international levels; and  
 ▶ Identify the most promising local experiences for replication and/or upscaling.

As AR-Net Regional Focal Point, ANGO has been assisting the four Country Focal Points (CFPs), namely, KPA in Indonesia, AR NOW! in the Philippines, Thai NGO WCARRD, and Cooperation Committee in Cambodia, in

documenting agrarian reform cases, compiling profiles and directories of NGOs involved in agrarian reform in their countries, and facilitating information exchange.

ANGOC has produced a Policy Paper on Agrarian Reform (See box on page 27), which points out some essential features and trends in the agrarian situation in several

countries in South and Southeast Asia, and takes a close look at land reform laws in these countries, specifically their key features and coverage. This Paper also highlights a

number of issues in land reform implementation in the different country contexts and examines some future agendas for agrarian reform in Asia.

ANGOC has published a Resource Book on Agrarian Reform, which covers 11 countries in South and Southeast Asia and features national situationers on AR policy and implementation as well as case studies of initiatives to broaden access to resources.

Another important venue for ANGO's networking

initiatives is its promotion of Land Alliances for National Development, or LAND Partnerships.

LAND Partnerships aim to develop country-level, multi-stakeholder alliances/coalitions/commissions or other convening mechanisms suited to country requirements. These structures will support the implementation of WSSD outcomes regarding security of access to land and related productive factors by poor rural households and communities; and assist country LAND Partnerships in identifying, either locally or from knowledge exchanges with other countries, the policy, programming and service-delivery systems that have created conditions successful in improving access to land by the rural poor.

**Policy Advocacy**

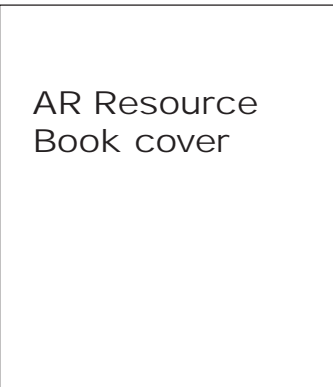
ANGOC regularly holds national, regional and interna-

tional meetings to revive international interest in agrarian reform. Most notably, in 1999 ANGO organized a regional meeting to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WCARRD. "WCARRD 20/20: Emerging Trends and Perspectives of Agrarian Reform in Asia" sought to restore agrarian reform to the agenda of governments and international policy-making bodies.

Roundtable discussions are another important part of the network's Policy Advocacy efforts. In 2000 it held a roundtable discussion on comparative studies in agrarian reform in the Philippines to draw out concrete lessons from agrarian reform implementation in the Philippines.

**On-the-Ground Initiatives**

ANGOC continually seeks out opportunities and partnerships that enable it to support agrarian reform at the commu-



*ANGOC's Resource Book on Agrarian Reform published in 2001*

**ANGOC is playing an important role in development work in Asia. ANGO has devoted time and human resources to cooperating with its partners and organizing numerous regional fora to direct international attention towards development issues in the Asian region. Star Kampuchea takes pride in the fact that ANGO is working with 3,000 NGOs throughout the region. This shows that ANGO is able to interact and help a large number of NGOs and communities that are engaged in agrarian reform and rural development.**

*-- Nhek Sarin,  
 STAR KAMPUCHEA, Cambodia*

## ANGOC'S FUTURE AGENDA FOR AGRARIAN REFORM

Over the next five years, the ANGOC network will focus on the following broad thematic areas and initiatives:

*First*, encourage the *sharing of experiences and land struggles* among civil society organizations, and support greater coordination and common understanding of land issues. These exchanges should go beyond sharing of technical information, so as to build greater public awareness and solidarity, share lessons, and allow choices.

Conceivably, it could be potentially productive and useful to bring together CSOs from those countries working within similar policy contexts and/or facing similar issues – *i.e.*, land issues in emerging market economies (China, Vietnam, Cambodia); land issues in South Asia (Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka); moving from post-dictatorships to social reforms (Indonesia, Philippines); addressing land conflicts, and others. Such exchanges should go beyond knowledge-sharing, and towards more strategic planning.

*Second*, in the process of sharing experiences, *synthesize field learnings in order to develop practical guidelines, approaches, methods and tools* that could assist field activists and agrarian reform practitioners in their work with communities. These could include, for instance:

- ▶ Participatory appraisal systems;
- ▶ Instruments and approaches for recourse in land disputes and for strengthening extra-judicial mediation for the resolution of land and resource conflicts; and
- ▶ Participatory mapping systems for delineating boundaries, and for assisting in community land-management and land-use plans.

*Third*, through ANGOC's in-country members and other in-country partners, engage governments in active dialogue on issues of "land access" and agrarian reforms. Pursue policy dialogues and reforms through the different venues available:

- ▶ Involve the ANGOC network and country partners in the preparation and monitoring of PRSPs and country assistance papers, to highlight the link between poverty and land issues, and the need for policy and institutional reforms on land;
- ▶ Involve ANGOC and partners in the creation of LAND Partnerships in a number of Asian countries; these "partnerships" refer to joint GO-CSO policy forums centered on land issues;
- ▶ Facilitate active linkages between ANGOC partners and other CSOs in each country working on land issues; these include indigenous peoples groups, social movements, women's rights groups, farmer federations, and other agrarian reform advocates. --BY **ANTONIO B. QUIZON** (Excerpt from "Asian NGO Perspectives on Agrarian Reform and Access to Land: ANGOC Policy Discussion Paper," ANGOC, 2005)

nity or local level. From 1998 to 1999 ANGOC was involved in designing the Philippine country program of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). This program was targeted primarily at agrarian reform communities being supported by the Philippine Government in the Southern Philippines.

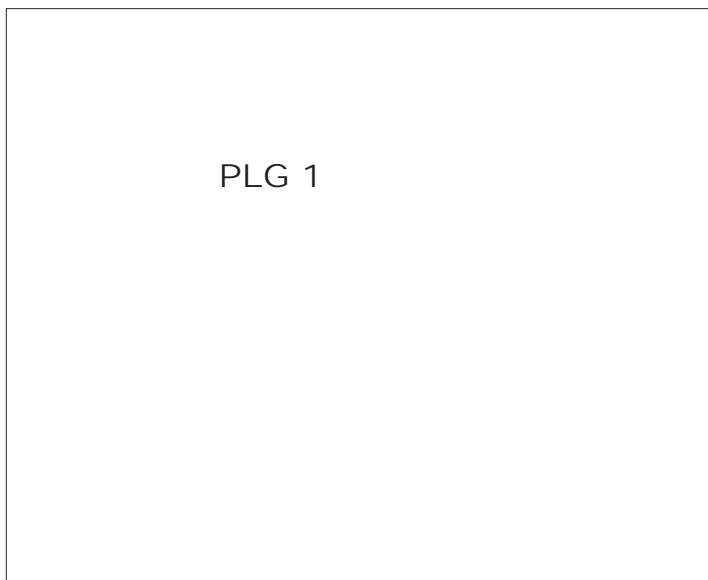
ANGOC provided media coverage for the Great Jubilee Pilgrimage Against Hunger organized in 2000. This was a 40-day, 2,000-kilometer walk from Mindanao to Luzon to dramatize the urgency of agrarian reform in the country.

At the same time, ANGOC actively supported the efforts of an organization of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) on CARRUF Estate (in Valencia, Bukidnon, in Southern Philippines) to get hold of the land that had been awarded to them by the Philippines' Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

ANGOC channeled its assistance to the CARRUF farmers through the Centre for Alternative Rural Technology (CART), an NGO based in Cagayan de Oro which had helped organize the CARRUF farmers and accompanied them in their lobbying activities in Manila. ANGOC also produced in 1998 a video documentary of the CARRUF campaign. 

# Participatory Local Governance

**A**NGOC's program on Participatory Local Governance (PLG) puts together the Network's initiatives to enhance the participation of local communities in processes that affect them.



This Program has evolved over the years in response to changing needs and circumstances. In the mid- to late 1980s the primary concern of ANGOC in this regard was

how to “broaden and improve the policy environment for NGOs and people’s organizations (POs)”. Essentially, ANGOC was then preoccupied with getting more NGOs and

POs to participate in formulating public policies, and with development cooperation and education.

At the time, there were few opportunities, if at all, for direct community involvement in development processes. Policies supportive of people’s participation had not yet been institutionalized, and the necessary mechanisms did not exist. Hence, the closest thing then to people’s participation was NGO/PO representation in fora or processes that affected the communities. As a result, the initiatives focused on:

- ▶ Maintaining regular dialogue with governments;
- ▶ Opening up venues for NGO/PO participation in public policy formulation;
- ▶ Studying the policies and programs of governments in South and Southeast Asia as they relate to NGOs/POs;
- ▶ Analysis of issues concerning Government-NGO and Donor-NGO relations;
- ▶ Mapping/survey of NGOs and their work programs; and

▶ Promoting GO-NGO-Donor collaboration.

## The Citizens’ Campaign on MDBs

In 1989 this Program was transformed by ANGOC’s involvement in the Citizens’ Campaign on Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). ANGOC had recognized early on that the indebtedness of member governments to MDBs, though not as huge as that to commercial banks, will nonetheless affect communities because of the negative environmental and social impact of MDB funded projects. Another challenge posed by MDB lending to developing member countries (DMCs) is that these institutions are non-transparent, unaccountable and inaccessible to local people.

ANGOC started the MDB Campaign with Friends of the Earth (FoE)-US and the Environmental Policy Institute (EPI) and the main focus was the Manila based Asian

| 1989  | 1990  | 1991  |
|---|---|---|
| <p>▶ Start of the Citizens’ Campaign on Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)</p> | <p>▶ Asian Regional Consultation: Strategic Analysis of Development Partnerships in Asia<br/>                     ▶ APDC/ANGOC Project on the role of NGOs in Development</p> | <p>▶ Development of a framework and operational mechanism for GO/NGO/PO collaboration</p> |

the NGO Working Group on the World Bank (NGOWG-WB). This working group was formed in 1984, and since then has met regularly to decide on NGO priorities before the annual meetings with World Bank staff in the Committee. It also held meetings in developing countries and organized its own program of research and information exchange, to strengthen its inputs to policy dialogue with the Bank.

In 1995, the NGOWG-WB began a process of decentralization, by holding regional meetings in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In October 1997, the annual meeting of the global Working Group

formally decided to restructure the network, promoting regional versions of the Bank-NGO Committee. Among the regional committees, the East Asia Pacific Regional NGO Working Group on the World Bank was formed in 1997, with ANGOC as its Secretariat.

In the following years, ANGOC's MDB Campaign took on a three-pronged approach which included policy intervention at the level of major decision-makers; NGO networking and information sharing; and research and documentation.

Development Bank (ADB). At that early stage, the Campaign generally consisted of helping facilitate the flow of information on Bank activities to interested NGOs, and vice-versa. Thus ANGOC was concerned, on the one hand, with facilitating access by participating NGOs to project documents and other information on Bank activities and, on the other hand, bringing to the Bank's attention the social and environmental impact of their lending and other feedback from NGOs.

In 1990, ADB-related initiatives were formalized by ANGOC under a program called "Transforming Financial Institutions". In 1992, ANGOC and other civil society groups that had attended that year's ADB

Annual Meeting in Hongkong formed the NGO Working Group on the ADB (NGOWG-ADB). The NGOWG regional secretariat was composed of ANGOC, Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC), Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) and Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM). From a loose network since 1992, network partners agreed in 1999-2000 to transform the network into an independent organization. Since then, the NGO Working Group became known as the NGO Forum on ADB.

Meanwhile, ANGOC's engagement with the World Bank (WB) started in the early 1990s, through its membership, since 1993, in

### Policy Intervention

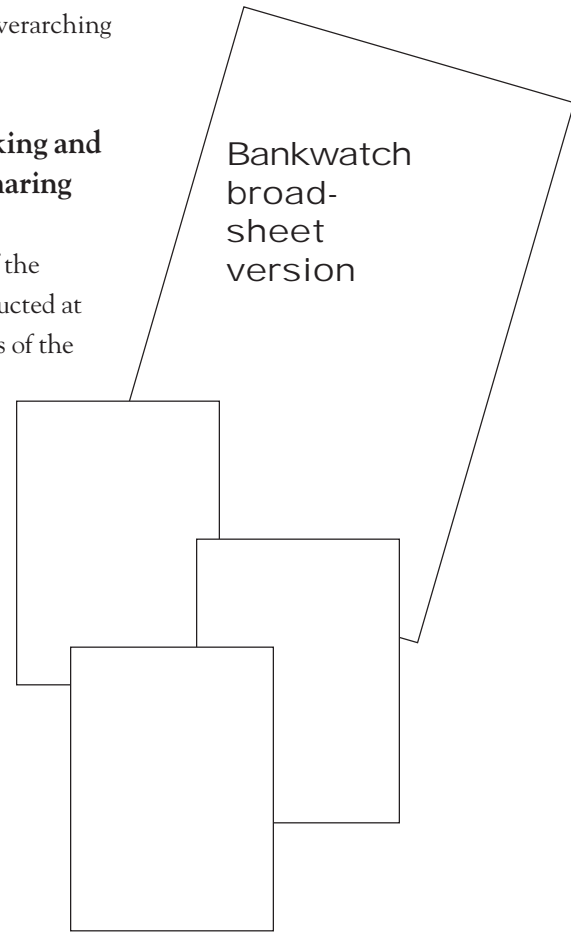
Since constituting themselves into the NGO Working Group on the ADB (NGOWG-ADB), ANGOC and the other NGOs involved in the Campaign have staged lobbying activities at the ADB's Annual Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting, the highlight of which is an

| 1992-1995   | 1996-2000   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Establishment of the NGO Working Group on the ADB; ANGOC appointed as Secretariat, 1992</li> <li>▶ ANGOC becomes part of the NGO Working Group on the World Bank (NGOWG-WB), 1993</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ ANGOC elected Secretariat of the East Asia Pacific Regional NGO Working Group on the World Bank, 1997</li> <li>▶ ANGOC becomes involved in the PRSP, 1999</li> </ul> |

reduction as its “overarching framework”.


**NGO Networking and Information Sharing**

This aspect of the Campaign is conducted at Regional Meetings of the respective NGO Working Groups and through skills-share sessions designed to build the capacity of NGOs to do advocacy work with the Banks.



**Research and Information Dissemination**

In 1995 ANGOC published “*The NGO Campaign on the Asian Development Bank*”, written by Antonio B. Quizon and Violeta Perez-Corral. This book chronicles the beginnings of the seven-year campaign on the ADB as well as the issues and concerns raised by NGOs and the Bank’s response.

ANGOC has also been publishing *Bankwatch*, the newsletter of the NGO Campaign on the ADB since 1991. 

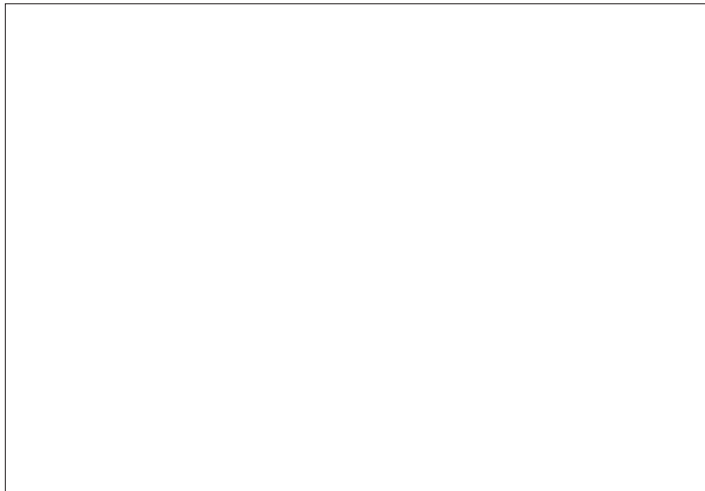
audience with the Bank President. In preparation for this lobbying work, the NGOWG-ADB holds an Asian NGO Regional Consultation on ADB Policies and Issues where the members discuss Bank projects and strategize what to take up with the Bank.

The NGOWG-WB used to hold a Spring Meeting for the same purpose. It maximized the occasional dialogues held by the WB with NGOs to push its reform agenda.

More recently, ANGOC has sought to address specific issues related to MDBs, such as civil society involvement in the formulation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

ANGOC credits the Campaign and its policy intervention work for many of the reforms in both the ADB and the WB. In particular, the

campaign with the ADB has contributed to changes in Bank policy in terms of improved social and environmental guidelines for projects, new Bankwide lending priorities, Bank initiatives in defining sectoral priorities on forestry, energy, population, involuntary resettlement, and information disclosure, a more open attitude to dialogue with NGOs and communities, and the Bank’s shift to poverty



# NGO Sector Development

**N**GO Institutional Development and Capability Building was one of the earliest programs of ANGOC.

In the late 1980s to the early 1990s, this Program was directed towards developing the managerial and technical capabilities of NGOs for very specific ends:

- ▶ To efficiently manage their organizations;
- ▶ To effectively respond to pressing development issues;
- ▶ To become more effective agents of change; and
- ▶ To improve their ability to deliver services to grassroots communities.

ANGOC engaged in a number of recurring activities under this Program.

Specialized technical training for NGO managers and fieldworkers was one of them. Among the institutions that ANGOC has collaborated with in this regard are the Institute for Development Research (IDR), the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), and the Southeast Asia Rural Social Leadership Institute (SEARSOLIN).

Study tour and learning exchange programs for NGO managers and workers were another regular part of NGO Institutional Development and Capability Building. ANGOC conducted five study tours around the following themes:

- ▶ NGO Experiments in Rural Credit and Marketing (1985);
- ▶ NGO Initiatives in Rural Nutrition and Health (1986);
- ▶ Selected NGO Experiences in Small-Scale Fisherfolk Development (1989);

- ▶ Grassroots Action in Natural Resources Management (1991); and
  - ▶ Forests for People: Experiences and Issues in Community Management (1991).
- Innovations et Reseaux pour le Developpement (IRED), International Institute for Rural Development (IIRD), South Asia Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA), to name a few, were partners in

## NEED FOR INTROSPECTION

NGO practitioners, advocates and theoreticians have long been engaged in the conscientization of people. But they may have fallen short of conscientizing themselves. Either they do not know which questions to ask or else believe that their credentials are self-evident.

Why is an exercise in conscientization necessary?

Conscientization is a valued, proven tool used by NGOs to help people move towards understanding and action. So, do NGOs feel superior over the people they work with, or do they feel so different from them as not to need conscientizing themselves?

Second, in their zeal to collaborate with national and international institutions, NGOs have felt pressure from these powers. They therefore need to muster the strength to "survive with integrity". Much of this strength would come from a clear understanding of NGO history, raison d'etre, and ideology.

--Excerpted from De Fonseka, Chandra, "Challenges and Future Directions of NGOs".

### 1988

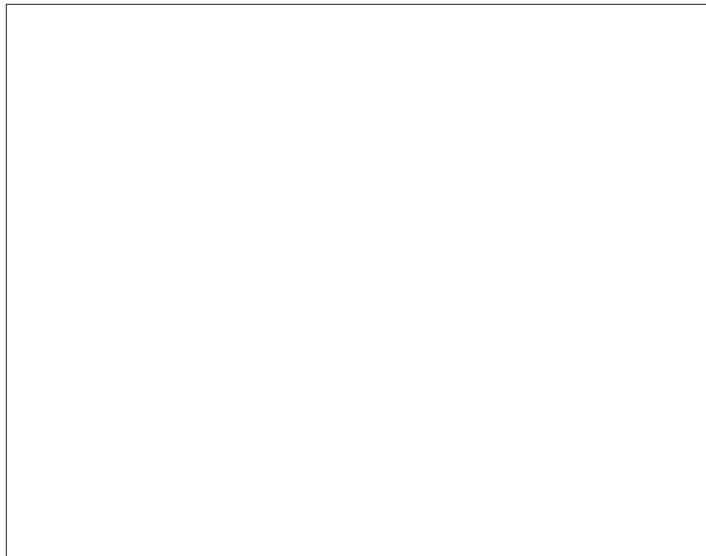
- ▶ Strategic Network decision to promote and initiate strategic management for NGOs in Asia
- ▶ Asian NGO Leadership Fellows Program

### 1991

- ▶ ANGOC designated as Southeast Asian focal point of the Geneva-based NGO Management Network

### 1992-1996

- ▶ First Asian Development Forum, 1992
- ▶ Second Asian Development Forum, 1993
- ▶ Third Asian Development Forum, 1994
- ▶ Fourth Asian Development Forum, 1995
- ▶ Fifth Asian Development Forum, 1996



various exchange programs for NGOs.

ANGOC served as the Southeast Asian focal point of the NGO Management Network based in Geneva. Publishing the quarterly newsletter “NGO Management” was part of this responsibility.

The development of NGO leaders was a major concern of this Program. Hence, ANGOC ran an NGO Fellows Program until the early 1990s. Inspection on critical issues within and outside the NGO sector was also undertaken at these gatherings and during reflection retreats and workshops organized by ANGOC.

In 1994 the Network drew up the following strategic goals for a new Asian NGO Sector Program:

- ▶ Install and strengthen the strategic capabilities of the Asian NGO sector to

influence public policy and opinion, and to mainstream their development experiences;

- ▶ Come up with an Asian regional consensus and agree on collective actions on issues related to alternative development paradigms and approaches on agrarian reform (AR), sustainable

- ▶ agriculture (SA) and rural development (RD); and
- ▶ Develop a strong ANGOC capable of serving as a strategic Asian coalition of NGO networks and key national institutions focused on AR, SA, and RD, and with a distinct capability to link local grassroots action with macro-policy interventions.

A major activity which dovetailed with this strategic approach was the Asian Development Forum (ADF) series, which started in 1992 and ended in 1996. (See box below)

The ADF was a series of annual conferences of local, national, and regional NGOs organized by ANGOC, which sought to articulate the needs and aspirations of Asian grassroots communities. The

overall theme of the Forum was “Food and Freedom, Jobs and Justice, Land and Labor, Peace and Prosperity: Towards an Asian Development Agenda for the Year 2000”.

ANGOC likewise focused its capacity-building interventions on the specific requirements of its members and partners. For instance, it conducted specialized capability building programs geared towards enhancing the competencies of NGOs in areas such as NGO network management, policy advocacy and diplomacy training. ANGOC also sought to beef up its lobbying activities with multilateral development banks (MDBs) through its *Regional MDB Critical Literacy and Practical Skills Share Workshops*. There were also initial efforts to build capacity

|                                | Date/Venue  | Theme  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| First Asian Development Forum  | 4-6 February 1992; New Delhi, India                   | Community Based Natural Resource Management: NGO Experiences and Challenges  |
| Second Asian Development Forum | 22-26 February 1993; Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines | Sustainable Agriculture Towards Food Security and Enhanced Quality of Life   |
| Third Asian Development Forum  | 14-18 February 1994; Kathmandu, Nepal                 | Village Centered Development: Towards Sustainable Livelihoods for Asian Grassroots Communities                                 |
| Fourth Asian Development Forum | 20-24 February 1995; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia           | Transforming Institutions for the Empowerment of Asian Grassroots Communities  |
| Fifth Asian Development Forum  | 28 February-02 March 1996; Bangkok, Thailand          | Food and Freedom, Jobs and Justice, Land and Labor, Peace and Prosperity Towards an Asian Development Agenda for the Year 2000 |

| 1998   | 2000   | 2001                            |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| ▶ ANGOC becomes Steering Committee member of the International Forum on Capacity Building (IFCB) | ▶ Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the IFCB | ▶ Global Conference of the IFCB |

in managing information within the ANGO C network.

ANGOC also worked to open up venues for its partners to mainstream innovations in AR, SA, and RD.

1998 marked a turning point for this program concern, as ANGO C redefined its network direction towards enhancing food security. Under the ANGO C Strategic Action Plan, the NGO institutional development and capability building program retained many of its former functions, such as holding of study tours for NGO managers and workers, but it would henceforth concen-

trate on two areas: developing an efficient and effective management information system (MIS) and promoting venues for multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration.

### An efficient MIS

ANGOC was quick to recognize the potential of using the Internet to facilitate communication within the network and to disseminate information to a wider audience.

In 1998 it held a workshop-training to familiarize its members in Internet technology, particularly the use of e-mail.

ANGOC thereafter set to work building its Information and Resource Center, primarily to facilitate the implementation of its flagship program: the

200-Village Project. In particular, information and communication technologies (ICTs) were used by network members (involved in this Project) to develop food security indicators, survey questionnaires and a database program. E-mail, e-conferencing, and other virtual communications took the place of traditional face-to-face meetings and proved just



as effective in getting input and feedback on every stage of project implementation.

Today, ICTs have become an indispensable part of project coordination and information sharing within the Network.

In fact, the use of ICTs for routine and project-related correspondence has fostered a strong sense of community among Network members.

ANGOC also maintains a webpage where it posts institutional information as well as updates on its many programs. Besides this, ANGO C has made initial forays into cyber-advocacy and electronic commerce.

ANGOC has also produced publications that could be used as tools in NGO work in various areas. Among these are: (1) a manual on field documentation of initiatives in sustainable agriculture (Volume 3 of ANGO C's Sustainable Agriculture Resource Book); (2) a Guide-

ANGOC was conceived and born in the same year that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural

Development was convened in Rome, and from the outset ANGO C has focused on rural issues and has had three distinctive characteristics:

1. It is an Asian forum for rural development issues, with members coming from the sub-regions of South, Southeast and East Asia;
2. Its members are non-government organizations which are either national networks of NGOs or region-based NGOs; and
3. It is a coalition geared towards advocacy work, action research, and joint undertakings on behalf of rural poor communities vis-a-vis governments, international organizations and other regional bodies.

In my estimation, one of ANGO C's major contributions to development work over the past quarter was the holding of the first to the fifth Asian Development Forum (ADF) in 1992-96. In preparation for the coming of the third millennium, ANGO C's series of ADF gatherings over five successive years highlighted the various components for a sustainable development agenda in Asia:

1. Community-based resource management with a focus on resources and issues of stewardship;
2. Sustainable agriculture with a focus on production and issues of sustainability;
3. Sustainable livelihoods with a focus on economics and issues of equity; and
4. reform of institutions with a focus on governance and issues of accountability.

With an overriding concern for rural poor communities and its aspirations for "food and freedom, jobs and justice, land and labor, peace and prosperity" the final forum encapsulated the Asian Development Agenda for the next millennium.

Hence, it is with this unfinished agenda that ANGO C enters the next decade after its 25th anniversary. Lately, the role of international civil society has been highlighted in the call for correctives and alternatives to the unbalanced globalization that seems to have engulfed third world countries.

GMOs vis-a-vis sustainable agriculture, terrorism and counter-terrorism vis-a-vis people's participation and a culture of peace, poverty and environmental degradation vis-a-vis a human security framework-- these are among the old perils and new paradigms that confront ANGO C and other concerned organizations and people's movements. As a regional network of networks, ANGO C can indeed play a supportive, yet catalytic role in the on-going tasks of social transformation of this vast continent of ours that is Asia.

--Bishop Ledesma  
Prelature of Ipil  
Zamboanga, Philippines

*Continued on page 16*

# 25 Years of Angoc

## 1979

- ▶ World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), 1979
- ▶ Regional Workshop on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, 1981
- ▶ Third Asian Workshop on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development co-organized with FAO-RAP, 1982
- ▶ Initiated the preparation of the first directory of rural development NGOs in collaboration with its members in seven Asian countries, 1984
- ▶ Provided technical assistance to the Japanese NGO community to develop its directory of Japanese NGOs, 1984
- ▶ Commissioned a series of monographs on the state of NGO Involvement in rural development in selected countries in the Asian region, 1984

25 yrs-3

25 yrs-4

## 1985

- ▶ Lobbying through the Congress for a People's Agrarian Reform (CPAR) in support of grassroots action in the Philippines to amend the agrarian reform law, 1987-89
- ▶ Strategic Network decision to promote and initiate strategic management for NGOs in Asia, 1988
- ▶ Asian NGO Leadership Fellows Program, 1988
- ▶ SARRA/IIRD/ANGOC Learning Exchange Program, 1989
- ▶ Inter-Regional Consultation on People's Participation in Environmentally Sustainable, 1989
- ▶ Start of the Citizens' Campaign on Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), 1989

25 yrs-6

25 yrs-7

## 1990

- ▶ Southeast Asia Regional Consultation on People's Participation in Environmentally Sustainable Development (SEACON), 1990
- ▶ Asian-Regional Consultation: Strategic Analysis of Development Partnerships in Asia, 1990
- ▶ APDC/ANGOC Project on the Role of NGOs in Development, 1991
- ▶ Development of a Framework and Operational Mechanism for GO/NGO/PO collaboration, 1991
- ▶ Establishment of the NGO Working Group on the ADB, 1991
- ▶ ANGOC designated as Southeast Asian focal point of the Geneva-based NGO Management Network, 1992
- ▶ Participation in the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and in the parallel International NGO Forum, 1992
- ▶ First Asian Development Forum, 1992
- ▶ Strategic Network decision to advance the Sustainable Development Agenda in the Asian region in connection with Agenda 21 implementation, 1993
- ▶ ANGOC named Steering Committee Member of the NGOWG-ADB, 1993
- ▶ ANGOC becomes a member of the NGO Working Group on the WB, 1993
- ▶ ANGOC elected Steering Committee member of the NGOWG-WB, 1993
- ▶ Second Asian Development Forum, 1993
- ▶ Coordinator of PCSD in Farmer Centered Agricultural Resource Management (FARM) Program, 1994
- ▶ Sustainable Agriculture becomes the Network's primary strategy to pursue its Food Security agenda in the Asian region, 1994
- ▶ ANGOC is named coordinator of the Steering Committee of the Sustainable Agriculture Networking and Extension (SANE) Program, 1994
- ▶ Third Asian Development Forum, 1994

1995

- ▶ ANGOC joins the Steering Committee of the IFAD Brussels Conference, 1995
- ▶ Fourth Asian Development Forum, 1995
- ▶ Asian Advocacy Workshop: Food Security through Sustainable Agriculture, 1995
- ▶ Global Assembly on Food Security, 1995
- ▶ Fifth Asian Development Forum, 1996
- ▶ ANGOC/FAO organized Asia-Pacific NGO Consultation on the World Food Summit, 1996
- ▶ World Food Summit, 1996
- ▶ Publication of ANGOC's Resource Book on Sustainable Agriculture, 1996
- ▶ Involvement in grassroots led action on agrarian reform in the Philippines--Carruf and Mapalad, 1997
- ▶ Grassroots initiative to promote sustainable agriculture practice in Dansolihon, Misamis Oriental, Mindanao, Philippines, 1997-2000
- ▶ Formation of the Knowledge Network on Agrarian Reform; ANGOC designated as Regional Focal Point for Southeast Asia, 1998
- ▶ Launch of the 200 Village Project, 1998
- ▶ ANGOC named Steering Committee Member of the International Forum on Capacity-Building (IFCB), 1998
- ▶ 20th Anniversary of WCARRD, 1999

2000

- ▶ Asia-Pacific Regional FAO-NGO/CSO Consultation, 2000
- ▶ Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the IFCB, 2000
- ▶ Global Conference of the IFCB, 2001
- ▶ Publication of ANGOC's Resource Book on Agrarian Reform, 2001
- ▶ Launch of LAND Partnerships, 2002
- ▶ NGO/CSO Regional Consultation on the World Food Summit-Five Years Later (WFS-fyl), 2002
- ▶ Participation in the WFS-fyl, 2002
- ▶ Completion of a Policy Paper on Sustainable Agriculture, 2004
- ▶ NGO/CSO Regional Consultation in conjunction with the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, 2004

2005

- ▶ Publication of ANGOC's Policy Paper on Agrarian Reform, 2005

25 yrs-12

25 yrs-13

25 yrs-14

25 yrs-15

25 yrs-10

25 yrs-11

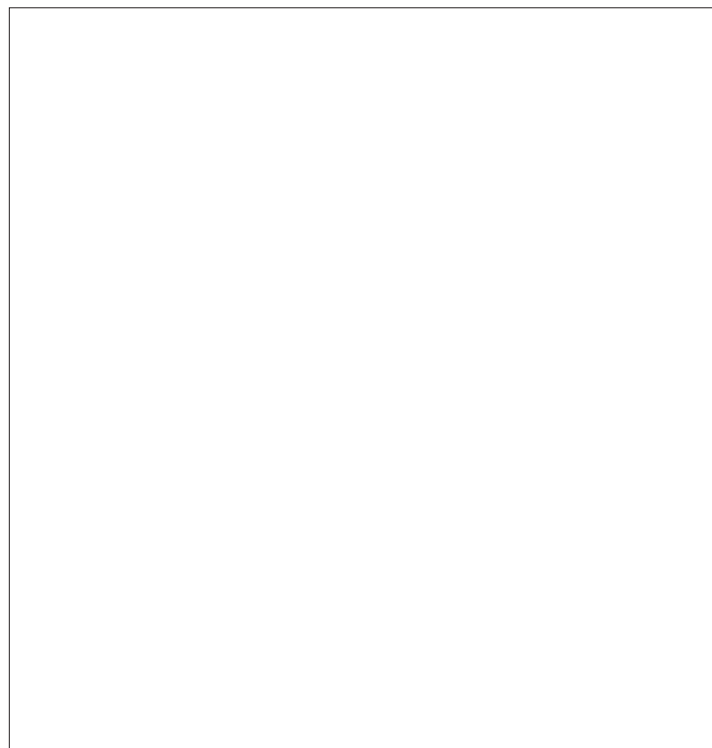
## THE EARLY YEARS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development was organized to bring together the experiences of the ANGOC network partners and was held at the ESCAP building in 1981.

ANGOC, in collaboration with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, organized the Third Asian Workshop on Agrarian Reform

provided to CIRDAP and as well to ANGOC, such as the Joint CIRDAP-ANGOC Programme on Rural Community Participation in 1983 as well as some initial support for the establishment of the ANGOC regional secretariat in the Philippines from NORDIC funds for WCARRD follow-up. In 1984, ANGOC



and Rural Development at the Viengtai Hotel in Bangkok in 1982.

FAO also promoted the organization of a regional inter-governmental body, which in Asia is known as the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), based in Bangladesh. FAO extra-budgetary funding was

initiated the preparation of a first-ever directory of rural development NGOs in collaboration with its members in seven Asian countries. ANGOC also provided technical assistance to the Japanese NGO community to develop its directory. Furthermore, ANGOC commissioned a series of State of the Art monographs on the State of

NGO Involvement in rural development in selected countries in the Asian region. The ANGOC journal LOK NITI was started in 1984 with Chandra de Fonseca as editor.

In 1985 ANGOC initiated its series of development-oriented study tours targeting countries in Southeast Asia and in South Asia. The study tours focused on practical exchange to facilitate transfer of learnings between farmers and rural development workers.

In 1986 ANGOC collaborated with the NGO Management Network, Geneva in order to improve and upgrade the management skills and understanding of NGO leaders in its network.

In 1987, with the support from the Ford Foundation, ANGOC organized in Bangkok, a regional workshop on the Strategic Management of NGOs as part of a human resource programme to upgrade the quality of NGO managers.

ANGOC was also invited by the new NGO Division of UNDP to address its first global meeting with UNDP Resident Coordinators held in Japan.

In 1988, the Institute of Development Research, Boston, in collaboration with ANGOC, organized an Asian NGO Leadership Program. ANGOC also launched its programs in Environment and Sustainable Development.

In 1989 ANGOC organized in Manila, the Inter-Regional Consultation on

People's Participation in Environmentally Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Environmental Liaison Center International which produced the global statement popularly known as "The Manila Declaration on People's Participation and Sustainable Development".

In February 1990, ANGOC organized a regional workshop in Chiangmai, Thailand to review the various partnership agreements of the Canadian International Development Agency with various NGOs in the Asian Region. In March 1990, ANGOC organized the regional workshop on environment and sustainable development in Indonesia which prepared the "Puncak Pass Declaration."

ESCAP with the support of the Government of France, bestowed on ANGOC, its first-ever Human Development Award during the Annual ESCAP Session held in Seoul, Republic of Korea in April 1990. This recognition of ESCAP was essentially for ANGOC's efforts with Asian NGOs in Participatory Rural Development in the Decade of the Eighties and its initiatives in sustainable development. ■

BY CRISTINA M. LIAMZON  
AND EDGAR VALENZUELA

**ANGOC wishes to acknowledge and thank the following partners,  
past and present, who have  
provided financial support for our activities.  
Our apologies to those that we have missed in the list.**

Asean Canada Fund (ACF)  
Asian Community Trust (ACT)  
Asia Partnership for Human Development (APHD)  
Asia Foundation  
Asian and Pacific Development Center (APDC)  
Action-Aid Vietnam (AAV)  
Both Ends  
Bishops Businessmen's Conference for Human Development (BBC)  
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)  
Canadian International Development Agency-International NGO Division (CIDA)  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)  
Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR)  
Cardinal Leger and His Endeavours (CLE)  
Club 2/3  
Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC)  
CGIAR-NGO Committee  
CUSO-Asia Pacific  
Deutsche Gesellschaft Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)  
Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (formerly German Agro-Action)  
Embassy of Japan-Philippines  
Friends of the Earth-US (formerly Environmental Policy Institute)  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
Ford Foundation  
Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE)  
Heifer Project International (HPI)  
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)  
International Forum on Capacity Building (IFCB)  
International Land Coalition (ILC)  
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)  
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Japan Fund for Global Environment  
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)  
Japan Foundation  
Lutheran World Relief - Philippines  
Misereor  
The Netherlands Government  
NGO Working Group on the Asian Development Bank  
NGO Working Group on the World Bank  
OXFAM-America  
OXFAM-Quebec  
OXFAM-UK  
Partners in Rural Development (PRD; formerly Canadian Hunger Foundation)  
Philippine Development Assistance Programme (PDAP)  
Private Agencies Collaborating Together (PACT)  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF)  
Stockholm Environment Institute -Boston Center  
Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)  
Ruth Mott Foundation  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
Society for International Development (SID)  
Sustainable Agriculture Networking and Extension Program (UNDP-SANE)  
UK Food Group  
World Accord  
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)  
YMCA Vancouver International  
Dr. Toshihiro Takami

# ANGOC MEMBERS

## **Bangladesh**

ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES IN BANGLADESH (ADAB)

## **Cambodia**

CAMBODIA NGO ALLIANCE FOR COOPERATION (CNAC)  
STAR KAMPUCHEA

## **China**

CHINA ASSOCIATION FOR NGO COOPERATION (CANGO)

## **India**

ASIAN INSTITUTE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AIRD)  
ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AVARD)  
CENTRE FOR AGRARIAN RESEARCH TRAINING AND EDUCATION (CARTE)  
GANDHI PEACE FOUNDATION (GPF)  
MYSORE RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (MYRADA)  
SOUTH ASIA RURAL RECONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (SARRA)

## **Indonesia**

BINA SWADAYA  
SEKRETARIAT BINA DESA  
WAHANA LINGKUNGAN HIDUP INDONESIA (WALHI)

## **Japan**

JAPANESE NGO CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (JANIC)

## **Nepal**

NGO FEDERATION OF NEPAL (NFN)

## **Pakistan**

RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION OF PAKISTAN (RDF)

## **Philippines**

PHILIPPINE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN RURAL AREAS (PHILDHRRA)  
SOUTH EAST ASIA RURAL SOCIAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (SEARSOLIN)

## **Sri Lanka**

LANKA JATHIKA SARVODAYA SHRAMADANA SANGAMAYA (SARVODAYA)  
NATIONAL NGO COUNCIL OF SRI LANKA (NNGOC)

## **Individual**

BISHOP ANTONIO J. LEDESMA  
ANTONIO B. QUIZON  
M.V. RAJASEKHARAN  
ROEL R. RAVANERA  
EDGARDO T. VALENZUELA

# ANGOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2004-2007)

## **Chair**

Francis B. Lucas, PhilDHRRRA (Philippines)

## **Vice Chair**

Michio Ito, JANIC (Japan)

## **Members**

Rachel Polestico, SEARSOLIN (Southeast Asia)

Rohini Reddy, SARRA (South Asia)

Sil Vineth, CNAC (Cambodia)

Haoming Huang, CANGO (China)

Bisheshwar Mishra, AVARD (India)

Dwi Astuti, Bina Desa (Indonesia)

Shanta Lall Mulmi, NFN (Nepal)

Erum Khan, RDF (Pakistan)

Saman Amarasinghe, NNGOC (Sri Lanka)

Yosef Arihadi, Bina Swadaya (Indonesia)

Cyril Ekanayake, SARVODAYA (Sri Lanka)

Antonio B. Quizon, Individual

## **Ex-Officio**

Nathaniel Don E. Marquez, Executive Director

# ANGOC REGIONAL SECRETARIAT STAFF (PAST & PRESENT)

## Executive Directors

Cristina M. Liamzon (1979 to 1983 )  
Edgardo T. Valenzuela (1983 to 1990)  
Antonio B. Quizon (1990 to 1998)  
Roel R. Ravanera (1998 to 2001)

## Deputy Executive Director

David M. Ingles (1990 to 1996)

## Past Regional Secretariat Staff

Ma. Faina V. Lucero  
Reynaldo "Rey" B. Ureta  
Janie Rose L. Villaroman  
Teresa "Tess" L. Debuque  
Manuel "Manolo" Y. Gregorio  
Ma. Aurita "Aurie" D. Milanco  
Marivic R. Mandalihan  
Ma. Cristina "Cristy" C. Villareal  
Fe O. Luzon  
Rhoda U. Reyes  
Jerry "Jing" E. Pacturan  
Jun Moll  
Edith Aldaba  
Bishan Singh Bahadur  
Ricardo "Ric" E. Torres, Jr.  
Violeta "Bobet" P. Corral  
Ginette Geicelle "Celle" S. Garcia  
Suzette Ann E. Lopez  
Arthur "Art" B. Melicor  
Florida Alma A. Briones  
Antonina "Tonette" S. Ducusin  
Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo  
Gloria "Glo" D. Punay  
Lalaine L. Angeles  
Marissa B. Perez  
Raul P. Gonzalez  
Aquilina "Lyn" L. Galang  
Jeddidah "Jed" F. Bermudez  
Roy J. Cabonegro  
Maricar H. Maestrado

Jessica M. Cinco  
Luis T. Arquiza  
Czarina "Rina" N. Deocampo  
Marlou M. Montebon  
Marilyn T. Tubil  
Juqueza "Joy" M. Dumalanta

**Current Regional Secretariat Staff:**

Nathaniel Don E. Marquez  
Maricel "Cel" S. Almojuela-Tolentino  
Catherine "Cathy" C. Liamzon  
Mary Grace D. Santos  
Maria Teresa "Tere" S. Agarrado  
Buenaflor "Flory" A. Tabio  
Carmencita "Ging" R. Hernandez  
Teresito "Dodong" E. Elumba  
Catherine "Cathy" E. Ordoña  
Mary Grace D. Santos  
Joseph E. Onesa  
Maria Cecilia "Cecille" J. Trinidad

*And the Many Others who have assisted ANGOC  
in various research and production work*