

# **The IIRE-Manila Newsletter Issue Number 4 for July-September 2010**

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> AGJS: A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR THE IIRE-MANILA**

**The 21-day 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Global Justice School of the IIREManila, last August 1 to 21,**

**2010, was a big step forward towards the realization of the mission of the institution.**

In terms of the preparation, attendance, participation, program and discussion, no doubt it can be concluded that the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGJS was a big improvement from the previous one.

It should be remembered that the IIRE-Manila was established two (2) years ago, primarily to serve as a venue where activists, progressive forces and scholars in Asia and the Pacific, from different traditions, could come together more accessibly and spend time discussing, debating and assessing different experiences, frameworks and paradigms of different movements towards the emancipation of all oppressed peoples of the world.

The preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup>

AGJS was more of a collective one. Four (4) fraternal Asian organizations, namely the IIRE-Manila, the Hong-Kong based The Association for the Advancement of Research in Marxism, the JRCL and the Labor Party Pakistan (LPP), co-signed and organized the said school. They also helped in raising finances and materials such as magazines and books for the school.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> AGJS was attended by eleven (11) participants, five (5) resource-persons/participants and six (6) resource persons. Majority of these attendees came from different movements in Asia; with different traditions and specific contexts. The participants are as follows: four (4) from the Philippines: three (3) from the Philippine section, all women (1 each from the Bangsamoro, the Indigenous People particularly from the Teduray Tribe, and from the Majority Nationality) assigned to different lines of works; and one (1) from other Left block the PMP (Filipino Worker's Party)/SANLAKAS; one (1) from Japan, a young sympathizer of the JRCL; one (1) from Taiwan from the organization called Worker's Democracy Association - a contact of our section in Hong Kong; two (2) from Indonesia: one (1) from the KPRM-PRD (The Political Committee of the Poor-People's Democratic Party) which was formed in 2008 as a result of the expulsion of the 13 founders of the KPRM-PRD from the "old" PRD, and the other one is from the People's Solidarity Network (PSN), mainly based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, which was linked to us by the JRCL; One (1) from the Labour Party Pakistan (LPP), who is part of leadership of one of LPP's Provincial formations; One (1) from the Communist Party of Bangladesh-Marxist Leninist (CPB-ML), who is also in the secretariat of their large peasant federation called the Bangladesh Kesiok Federation (BKF), which was linked to us by comrade Gerhard Klas of the ISL, who was able to visit them in Bangladesh years back, and; One (1) from the NSSP, who is a journalist and active in Journalists Union.

The program was also an improvement of the first school, as it was more structured and more systematic. It was divided into three (3) parts: context, movements and on alternative organizing for change. The set-up of the program, as well as the specific topics, opened the discussions on the most urgent and pressing questions faced, not just by Asian movements, but by all movements in the world. These are the developing role of China, the Palestine question, on the LGBT especially in the Asian context, fundamentalism, the struggle for Climate Justice, on the different forms of struggles and revolutionary strategies, the so-called 21<sup>st</sup> century Socialism, among others. Discussions were also richer due to the mixture of participants, who came from various traditions, experiences

and contexts.

With the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGJS, a much better 3<sup>rd</sup> AGJS is in the offing, as participating organizations committed to help, in any way possible, for the realization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGJS next year.

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## **10 organizations likely to endorse the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGJS!**

**With much enthusiasm, participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGJS committed to lobby with their respected organizations to endorse the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Global Justice School targeted to be on July 17 to August 7 next year.** The target date of the next school was collectively suggested by the participants during the evaluation period of the 2<sup>nd</sup> school.

These participants who were present during the evaluation period, majority of them came from Asia, are from the following organizations: the Japan Revolutionary Communist League (JRCL), The Association for the Advancement of Research in Marxism in Hong Kong, The Workers Democracy Association in Taiwan, the Political Committee of the Poor - People's Democratic Party (KPRM-PRD) of Indonesia, the People's Solidarity Network of Indonesia, the Communist Party of Bangladesh-Marxist Leninist (CPB-ML), the Labor Party Pakistan (LPP), the NSSP of Sri Lanka, the Socialist Alternative Politics of The Netherlands and the New Anti-Capitalist Party (NPA) of France.

The commitment of the participants is a great effort towards a more collective project among fraternal organizations in the Asia-Pacific. It could foster closer and more dynamic relations among these organizations, which could go beyond endorsing and co-organizing schools in the future.

The endorsement of these organizations is seen as very vital for the success of the target 3<sup>rd</sup> AGJS, as

it will aid in inviting more organizations and in raising much needed funds, especially for the airfare of third world participants. Among others, participants already committed to contact their links and networks in Australia, South Korea, India, Nepal and Malaysia. Other organizations interested to endorse the next school are also welcome.

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## **Asian Global Justice School in Manila 2010: Putting the Pieces of World's Problems**

**By Zely Ariane**

The never ending traffic jams of Quezon City, Philippines, found its 'compensation' in the second Asian Global Justice School on August 2-2 1.

Representing the Political Committee of the Poor-People's Democratic Party (KPRM-PRD), along with 10 other left activists from Taiwan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Japan and Pakistan, I participated in a three-week school in Manila organised by International Institute for Research and Education (IIRE)-Manila.

The participants came from a variety of revolutionary organisations and parties with different traditions, engaging in different areas of national struggle. Some were peasant organisers, labour and women's activists while others worked on rural issues or conflict areas.

Covering 16 key topics, the school was inspiring and rich in content, consolidating revolutionary ideas and putting the pieces of world's problems together into a revolutionary Marxist perspective and posing socialist solutions.

No other phase in this civilised world

where discussing Marxism and Socialism find its exactness in the ongoing world crisis under capitalism and imperialism. Fukuyama 'end of history' analysis has also paralysed in the presence of 'the beginning of new history' presented by ongoing people's resistance in Latin America, especially in Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador against imperialism and, at the same time, struggling to create something new: socialism in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The topics at the school were broken into three categories: the context of the struggle which is Asian in the context of the global political and economic situation, the movement of struggle and organizing for change.

The first category covered: the Asia and world economic crisis — which concentrated on the China phenomenon; the impact of imperialism and globalisation in the past and present; international migration — characterised by the history of migration in relation to the development of capitalism and the impact of the current crisis; religion and religious movements — how to differentiate reactionary and progressive religious movements in the context of national struggles; class composition in Asia — who are the working class in a planet of slums?

In the second category covered six topics: the rural question and the role of the peasantry — which described the

present conjuncture of agriculture, and what is peasantry today and its movements; the opportunities for NGOs - looking at their role in civil society and the question of political power; feminism — the specifics and class oppression of women; trade union struggles in Asia — the state of labour struggle in Asia and the possibilities of moving forward; nationalism and national liberation - differentiating between the two and the role of the working class poor and other popular and oppressed sectors in the struggle for national liberation; Marxism and ecology — how to link the two and unfolding ecological crisis as a direct impact of capitalism.

The final category consisted of five topics on revolutionary strategies with Latin America examples - the strategy of struggle for socialism with examples; internationalism and the global justice movement - looking at the state of the international movement today and the need for international cooperation; movements and the dialectic of reform and revolution on how to win revolutionary programs by reaching out as many as possible people in the movements, as well as the relationship between the party and the movements; revolutionary parties and the international on the context of building revolutionary parties and the need for international collaboration; 21<sup>st</sup> century socialism — how to build socialism and learn from the mistakes of socialism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the importance elements will be in creating it. There was also an additional and importance discussions were about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues related to capitalism and an exchange of country experiences.

Also participating in the school were left speakers from a variety of backgrounds such as Peter Wang from the Association for the Advancement of Research in Marxism in Hong Kong, Kenji Kunitomi from the Japan Revolutionary Communist League (JRCL), Piet Engelschman and Alex de Jong from the Netherlands Socialist Alternative Politics (SAP), Pierre Rousset from the New Anti Capitalist Party in France, Philippines left-leaders Ricardo Reyes and Frank Pascual, Philippines women's activists Yennah Torres, Walden Bello Ph. D representing the Akbayan Party List from the Philippines, Wilson Fortalesa from the Philippines Partido ng Manggagawa and Richard Solis from IIRE Manila.

The warm and comradely discussion between participants was enhanced by placing the topics in the context of Asian countries, or the semi-colonial countries, where we are conducting our day-to-day struggle. The topics such as Religion & Religious Movement, Rural Question, NGO's, Women and LGBT issues, Nationalism & National Liberation, Strategy and Latin America Examples, Party and The Movement, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Socialism were the most interesting discussed. Asian countries have the largest number of poor in the world (and the most smallfarmers and peasants) with the biggest number of NGO's intervening, with some of the most backward cultures and dynamic people's movements and left organisations. Much of the discussion related to how organise these into the movement of revolt.

There were however many issues that needed to be discussed further, particularly with regard to economic relations and class, imperialism, the oppression of women and LGBT, and revolutionary

strategy. And this need became clear over the discussion during the school. It was also an occasion to recharge and challenge ones understanding of both theory and practice and essential for the future of revolutionary socialist struggle.

There are many new and young left activists joining the movement and revolutionary organisations, often without really understanding the history of their own left traditions, or in countries with no specific left tradition.

The school was an excellent opportunity to put forward different approaches and views but did not attempt to create a uniformity of perspectives. Rather, it was a tool for learning from each other and bringing these lessons into the national context of struggle and challenging them in the national discussions.

It was also an opportunity to learn and discuss historical revolutionary lessons in order to build the revolutionary party and the movement for today that is democratic, broad but at the same time radical.

**Zely Ariane is the national spokesperson for the Political Committee of the Poor-Peoples Democratic Party; member of Free Women organization.]**

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## **IIRE-Manila, Asian Organizations to organize Series of Seminars**

Inspired by the various discussions during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Global Justice School, the IIRE-Manila and some Asian organizations are planning to have various seminars within this year and early next year before the targeted date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGJS.

The seminars are intended to give more in-depth and focused discussions on issues and questions related to the Rise of China, the Migrant Workers in/of Asia, the Bolivarian Revolution



and its Fight against US imperialism and the Electoral form of Struggle in the Asian Context. Hopefully, the proposed seminars could open more rooms for cooperation and partnership within and among participating organizations in relation to the questions at hand.

The respective seminars, which will be held in Manila, will be two to three days each. Participants will be from fraternal Asia-Pacific organizations and from the broad left and civil society organizations in the Philippines, but also open to other interested organizations. Invitations, programs and concept papers will be sent out soon.

### **A THANK YOU NOTE**

The IIRE-Manila and the participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGJS would like to express our collective gratitude to all those who supported the 2<sup>nd</sup> school, either morally, logistically and financially. Without your support, the 2<sup>nd</sup> school would not be as fruitful as it was.

Thank you so much!

### **CALL FOR DONATION**

The IIRE-Manila is still building up its resource materials. We will be happy to accept donations in the form of books, magazines, publications, manuscripts, electronic copy documents and multi-media resource materials. Donors will be acknowledged. Rest assured that the resource materials will be putted to progressive use. Donors can contact us through email at [iiremanila@iire.org](mailto:iiremanila@iire.org).

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### **IIRE-Manila**

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OF ALL  
PROGRESSIVE  
FORCES IN THE  
PHILIPPINES,  
IN ASIA  
AND THE  
WORLD

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\* The Newsletter of the  
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