

MySDG International Conference 2024: Building Inclusive Communities through SDGs and Social and Solidarity Economy Initiatives

The regional MySDG International Conference “Building Inclusive Communities through SDGs and Social and Solidarity Economy Initiatives ” held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27-28 January 2024 showcased the landscape of social and solidarity economy actors that contribute towards localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and strengthened the network of the social and solidarity economy actors and promoters in Asia-Pacific region. The conference, co-organized by MySDG Academy (All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia) and Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC) brought together over 120 government officials, international organizations, activists, practitioners, community leaders from 15 countries in the region.

Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economy in Malaysia Mrs. Hanifah Hazar Taib opened the conference by reaffirming the government’s commitment and support towards the social and solidarity economy actors in accelerating progress towards localization of the SDGs and noted that social and solidarity economy actors can partner with the government to improve employment opportunities and extend critical services for vulnerable and marginalized groups.



Ms. Heejin Ahn, Technical Officer on Entrepreneurship and Social and Solidarity Economy Development gave a keynote speech highlighting that social and solidarity economy entities are well-positioned to achieve access and inclusion related targets of the localized SDGs. She noted that several Asian countries, including Malaysia have played a key role in the adoption of the UN Resolution “Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development.” Ms. Ahn informed the participants of the ILO’s project on [Strengthening the Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia project – phase 2](#) which informs and creates policy dialogue on the contributions of the social and solidarity

economy to decent work and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific region.



The Conference showcased good practices of social and solidarity economy entities contributing towards localizing the Sustainable Development Goals including women and youth empowerment, environmental sustainability, disability inclusion and rural development in the region.

Executive Director of Development Wheel and DEW Crafts presented a case on their Social Enterprise DEW Crafts on “Sustainable Livelihoods for Small Scale Artisans and Producers through DEW Crafts”. End of the presentations of the presenters DEW ED received a paper presenter certificate from Dr. Eri, Chair of ASEC.



On 28 January 2024, the participants visited the [Association of Social Services and Community Development of Gombak District, Selangor \(PSPK\)](#), a community-based organization that empowers marginalized women and children through income-generating activities and literacy programs. The participants learnt about activities such as upcycling

plastic bottles, gardening, baking, and catering and sewing and IT training.



On 29 January 2024, we all the members of the Asia Social Solidarity Economy Council- ASSEC participated in our General Assembly. The Assembly discussed ways to operationalize the Social and Solidarity Economy Development Roadmap which include formalizing ASEC membership, advancing knowledge management, education, and training, resource mobilization and crowd funding and impact assessment.



The ILO, in partnership with ESCAP and ASEC will hold a regional conference “Social and Solidarity Economy for Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia “in Bangkok, Thailand on 23-24 April 2024. ASEC will organize ASEAN Peoples’ Forum, an annual forum of civil society organisations from ASEAN Member States as part of the ASEAN Summit in Malaysia in 2025.



On 31st of January DEW Executive Director visited to the MySDG secretariat in Kuala Lumpur. Introduced all the staff members of the MySDG and they presented their activities which are promoting global goals 2030.

1st February DEW ED visited Bagan Seri field of the MySDG to see the FGD's with the fisherman communities in the coastal areas. MySDG staffs find out local problems through

FGD's within the constituency with having the parliament members to find solutions. To solve the socio economic problems ministry of economics provided funds to MySDG to support the community to solve problems.



On 2nd February, DEW Executive director invited to present DEW activities at the secretariat of MySDG. It was a nice interactions and sharing with the participants.



[All-Parliamentary Group Malaysia](#) was established by the Parliament of Malaysia in October 2019, an initiative driven to implement the SDGs in Parliamentary constituencies in Malaysia.



[Asian Solidarity Economy Council](#) is the Asian hub for enhancing the responsibilities of stakeholders in co-creating a compassionate, solidarity economy. It brings together 18 national and continental networks in 21 countries in Asia. ASEC is part of RIPESS, an intercontinental network that connects social and solidarity economy throughout the world.