Building Partnerships to Empower Rural People’s Organization

AsiaDHRRA, Asian Partnerships for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas, traces its earliest roots to a three-week Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (DHRRAW) in 1974 held in Swanganiwas, Thailand. About 120 rural development workers and practitioners gathered to engage in dialogues that focused on the challenges and responses to rural development. Now, it is a regional partnership of 11 social development networks and organizations in 11 Asian nations that envisions organized rural communities that are just, free, prosperous, living in peace and working in solidarity towards self-reliance.

To contribute to the improvement of the socio-economic well-being of members of rural people’s organizations in Asia, AsiaDHRRA aims to play the role of:

• Promoter and catalyst of partnership relations, creating opportunities for genuine people to people dialogue and exchange;
• Facilitator of human resource development processes in the rural areas; and
• Mobilizer of resources & opportunities for the strengthening of solidarity and kinship among Asian rural communities.

Support Programs to Rural People’s Organizations (RPOs)
Investments on the development and growth of RPOs that are able to 1) benefit from the economic opportunities resulting from the increasing volume of traded agricultural food and commodities; 2) effectively influence policies and participate in public agricultural programs; 3) deliver services to their members to support increased production, better agricultural services, effective natural resource management, and cares for the nutrition of women and children and 4) establish effective local mechanisms to address disaster risk reduction and post disaster agricultural rehabilitation.

Regional Movement and Policy Advocacy
The complementation and relationships between and among CSO and RPOs, in particular CSOs’ facilitating role in policy dialogues with government and various food and agriculture governance bodies, in the engagement with private sectors, and in their participation in public programs.

Partnerships, Networking, and Knowledge Management
The strengthening of the AsiaDHRRA network and its member DHRRAs as support organizations and agri-agencies providing services to rural people’s organizations and as catalysts of development processes and mechanisms needed to broaden and deepen the impact of its collective work.

From 2016-2020, AsiaDHRRA will focus on the following work areas:

Support Programs to Rural People’s Organizations (RPOs)

Regional Movement and Policy Advocacy

Partnerships, Networking, and Knowledge Management

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AsiaDHRRA is an NGO affiliate of the ASEAN

AsiaDHRRA is in an NGO with special consultative status with the UN ECOSOC

AsiaDHRRA has a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the EU for 2015-2020

AsiaDHRRA is an agri-agency member of AgriCord since 2012

AsiaDHRRA is in an NGO special consultative status with the UN ECOSOC

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2015 – 2020 Strategic Direction

Currently, AsiaDHRRA implements three (3) major initiatives:

Farmers Fighting Poverty (2012-2019) - it aims to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty, and
b) enhance the economic services of rural people's organizations to their members. Through FFP, AsiaDHRRA supports projects directly implemented by farmers' organizations in Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. FFP is a major programming of AgriCord where AsiaDHRRA supports projects directly implemented by farmers' organizations in Myanmar, Indonesia,

Post-Yolanda Fund for Local Initiatives (2014-2018) - supports local rural organizations and communities affected by super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) so that they are able to directly participate in and benefit from a range of post-disaster rehabilitation activities through direct financial and technical assistance in rebuilding their farms and recover their lost livelihood and move out of poverty. Through this fund facility, AsiaDHRRA supports at least 13 Farmers/Fishers Organizations on various disaster farm and livelihood rehabilitation projects.

Regional Cooperation to Empower Rural Development Organizations in Asia (ReCoERDO-Asia: 2016-2019) - to contribute to the improvement of the socio-economic well-being of the members of rural people’s organization in Southeast Asia through strengthened capacity of CSOs in responding to rural development issues. It is being implemented by country DHRRA in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and, Vietnam.