

La Vía Campesina

International farmers movement
Movimiento campesino internacional
Mouvement paysan international
Gerakan petani internasional

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La Via Campesina Youth Press Release

La Via Campesina Regional South East Asia and East Asia held it's second youth assembly in Dili, Timor Leste on March 25-29, 2009. Youth leaders from Thailand, Indonesia, Philippine, South Korea, Japan, Australia and Timor Leste shared and discussed the youth situation and the role of youth in the country and our commitment to struggle for the food sovereignty.

The youth spent a few days in Timor Leste where they lived and learnt from the community of Uma Kaduak village, district of Manatutu. There we Shared the local food, culture, and planted trees together for their future.

La via campesina youth shared experience of struggle in each country and learnt the worries of Timorese youth, and their current situation. The use of 100.000 ha of fertile land for sugarcane plantation for agrofuel, the promotes of heavy oil power plant project, hybrid seed being develop for more than 3000 ha in Maliana district, distribution of hand tractors to the farmers shift environmental friendly agriculture into the mechanization, youth migration from villages to abroad and become the low wage workers.

Similar problems also occurred in other countries. In Australia, the farm sizes have become much larger and the number of farmers decreased, in Japan the young people migrate to the cities in search of work and if they do not find work they become homeless in the cities. The struggle for agrarian reform in Philippine, Thailand and Indonesia increase the peasant rights violation in these countries. Peasant struggle to defend our rights become stronger and stronger towards the international convention on peasant rights. The ASEAN human rights body will be our opportunity to introduce peasant rights in the region.

The crisis in the world threats mental and physical well being of people. Since last three years, more than 3000 farmers committed suicide in South Korea because of the heavy debt for running a farm and the flood of cheap imported food. In Australia estimated 1, 5 million people under the age of 18 considered obese. This mean about 20-25% of Australian children are overweight.

WTO had caused the prices of agriculture product drop, hunger, poverty and as a result million of farmers suffer in many countries. The open market and the EPA/FTA hit the farmers and lost their livelihood. TNC promote GMO seed, and chemical fertilizer, which makes peasants very dependent on buying their products which as a result causes them to loose their local seeds. Dam construction in Mekong river affects more than one million

people in six countries. The dam had blocked river and causes destruction to the rivers ecosystem, and creates no work for fisher folk along the river.

Faced with this harsh reality, the young men and women of la Via Campesina, with strength and passion, we are in the strong commitment to struggle at all levels and commit to:

- Solidarity with Timorese youth on their struggle for strengthening the national youth and agrarian reform.
- Build youth alliances and organized exchange among the youth in various countries in the region.
- Have access to agricultural land and create jobs for youth to stay in the country in order to ensure food and the future of our planet.
- Reject all forms of neo-liberalism policies which do not stand for the people.
- La Via Campesina youth will organize various actions during the April 17th on the occasion of the international day of peasant's struggles.

Dili, March 30th, 2009

Globalize struggle,
Globalize hope!!

La Via Campesina is international movement of small scale farmer and peasant movement. For more information please visit www.viacampesina.org