



Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

SESSION 4: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Social and Community Enterprise Constituency Statement

Speaker: Marie Lisa Dacanay | Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia | Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

In November 2014, the Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA) co-convened a conference to develop an agenda for the social enterprise sector in the region to contribute to defining a post-2015 development agenda.

What are social enterprises? Social enterprises are like businesses because they create wealth. But unlike ordinary businesses that are driven by profit and accumulate wealth for owners of private capital, social enterprises are social mission driven and distribute the wealth they create to the poor and marginalized who are their primary stakeholders. Social enterprises include cooperatives, community-based enterprises, fair trade organizations and innovative enterprises engaged in the production, processing and trading of goods and services that enable the poor as actors in economic development while also providing sustainable livelihoods and access to services.

The very nature of social enterprises puts them in a good position to become major partners of government, corporations, civil society and social movements to achieve the ambitious targets of the SDGs.

In this context, we would like to propose social entrepreneurship as a platform for innovation and multistakeholder collaboration to achieve poverty eradication and to leave no one behind. In this way, social entrepreneurship could serve as framework for innovative public-private partnerships that are anchored on scaling up the outreach and impact of social enterprises as well as replicating successful models that have effectively provided sustainable livelihoods, quality social services and transformed the lives of the poor and marginalized in various countries in the region.

There are some governments in the region that have already started to recognize and support social enterprises as partners. Among corporations, those who are serious about meaningfully engaging small producers in their value chains have started to recognize social enterprises as critical partners. But so much more needs to be done.

To aid the process of building these social entrepreneurship platforms, it is proposed that national governments put in place dedicated policies and programs to support social enterprises as partners in achieving the SDGs. It is further proposed that a substantive part of ODA support these national efforts as well as regional or sub-regional social entrepreneurship platforms to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific. Our constituency is prepared to work with you in these innovative multistakeholder partnerships to eradicate poverty and to truly leave no one behind.