

Trip Report

ILC Global Land Forum and Assembly of Members

May 12-16, 2015

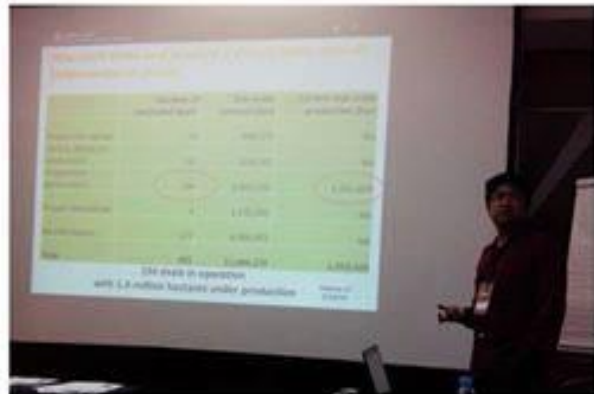
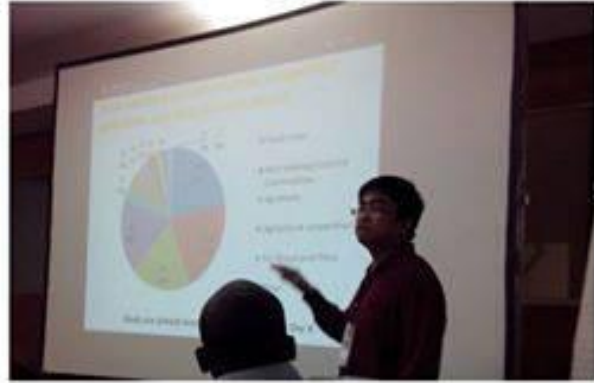
Dakar, Senegal

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1. Session on Land Matrix (May 13)

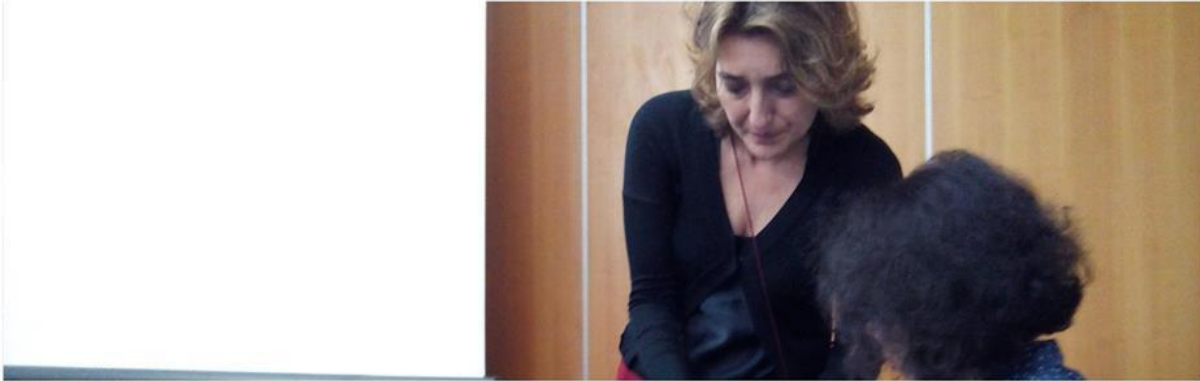
- Presented updates on AFA as Asia focal point, regional trends in large scale land acquisitions, and case study of a few deals in Cambodia
- Made a call for support for data improvement, use of data for advocacy and policy dialogue, and improvement of the way data is presented
- Emphasized that AFA's interest is to increase capacity of FOs in data-driven campaign and evidence-based advocacy, and to inform its policy dialogues with decision makers on issues pertaining to land
- Got interest and support from researchers and campaigners like Tim Wise of Tufts University and Global Witness in London who works in the Mekong
- Got good feedback from ILC and GIGA about the presentation and response to questions from the audience

- Wrote news report for AFA, MTCP2, and Land Matrix Asia website, FB, Twitter, ebu: [AFA presents data on large scale land acquisitions in Asia at the 2015 Global Land Forum](#)



2. Session on IYFF (May 14)

- Ka Rene presented the accomplishments and challenges of the national steering committee on IYFF in the Philippines
- Get more info from Ka Rene and Louise as I was not here



3. Session on VGGT (May 14)

- Presented updates on AFA's implementation of VGGT in 3 countries, citing initial findings from the Kyrgyzstan paper
- Emphasized need for broad multistakeholder platform for VGGT national implementation with FOs and CSOs, with the same inclusive and participatory nature as the global process
- Called on FOs and CSOs to use the VGGT and not leave it to government to implement
- FAO affirmed commitment to support national implementation processes
- Got good feedback from ILC on the presentation



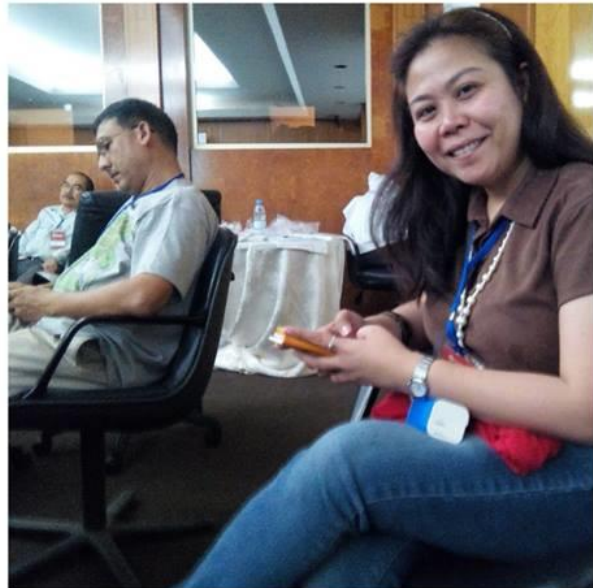
4. Plenary on Just, Inclusive and Sustainable Development (May 14)

- Raised the issue of foreign large scale land acquisitions in Cambodia to the Land Minister in the panel (who is showcasing Cambodia's supposed balance of development and biodiversity, public lands for land use, and protection of community rights) using the following findings from the Land Matrix data:
 - o companies using sub-companies so they can lease more than the limit of 10,000 hectares of land under land concession law, e.g. 3 companies x 6,000+ hectares each = 18,000+ hectares (legal violation)
 - o most lands converted from agriculture to rubber plantations (mono-cropping)
 - o most of the communities were evicted from their lands (land-grabbing)
- Raised the question of how Cambodia is enforcing the law, protecting biodiversity, and ensuring community's rights are upheld.
- The Land Minister did not deny any of these evidence-based/data-driven findings and instead vowed that the government is reviewing all land concessions in Cambodia and will revoke all those licenses that violate the law
- Got good feedback from KPA who said that it was good for AFA to be promoting the interest of ILC members



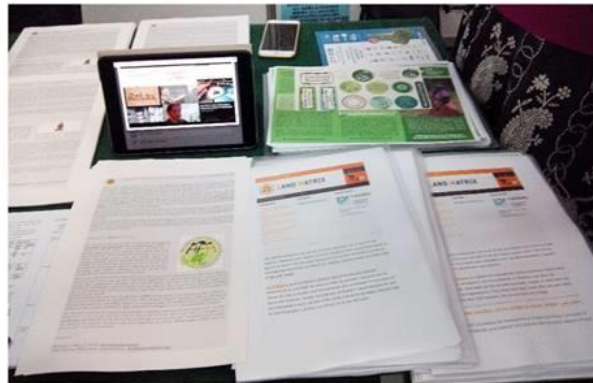
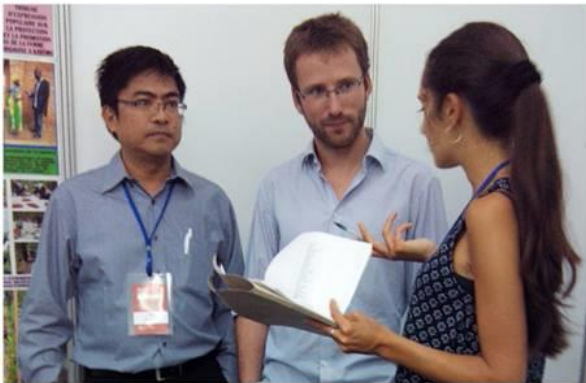
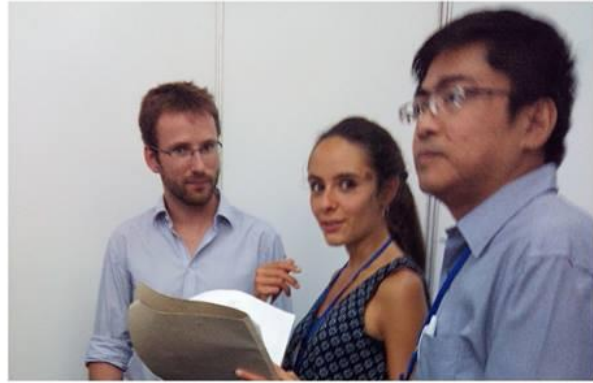
5. Closing Session of the Global Land Forum (May 14)

- Ka Rene delivered a message in behalf of PAKISAMA/AFA
- Ka Rene received the award for PAKISAMA as one of nine finalists for the first ILC award



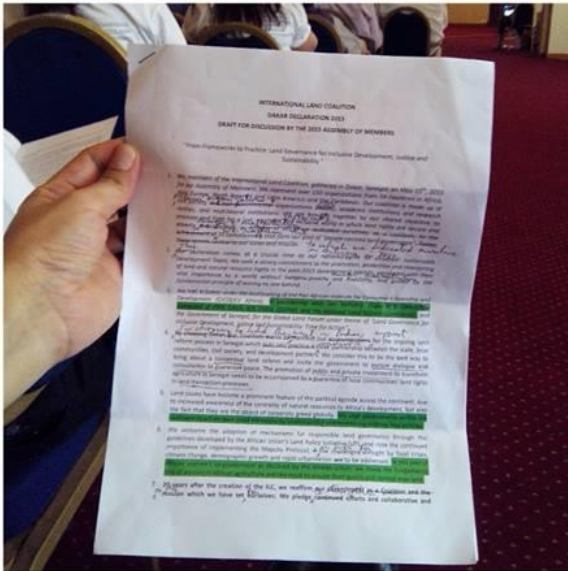
6. ILC Asia Caucus (May 14)

- Nominated ANGOC for another two-year term as steering committee member for continuity
- Voted for RDF of Kyrgyztan as second member, being the one more ready over Cambodia
- Next ILC Asia assembly will be hosted by AIPP in Chiang Mai in September



7. Fair of Ideas (May 15)

- Joined other Regional Focal Points in the Land Matrix booth, where we gave orientations and answered questions on the initiative
- Organizations from countries like India and Cambodia came and signed up to participate in data gathering
- Learned about land monitoring initiative in Argentina, similar to PAFID, but more advanced in how they use the data for monitoring land grabbing, preparing development proposals, preparing for future investments, etc.
- Met people from CICODEV, the coalition of FOs and CSOs in Senegal, working on land issues



8. Assembly of Members (May 15)

- Asked by Mike Taylor to speak during the Assembly of Members on Strategic Objective 3 in the ILC report
 - o Spoke about how AFA as Asia Focal Point is using the Land Matrix to improve FOs capacity for data gathering and analysis, inform its advocacy and policy dialogues, and support land campaigns on the ground
 - o Spoke of AFA's challenge of building a wide network of data coordinators and contributors in the region beyond ILC network, improve the data, and make data more relevant and useful by adapting to the needs of users.
 - o Called on ILC to participating in taking the power of data in the hands of producer organizations to influence decisions over land and other resources
- Two new AFA members accepted as ILC member: UWUA, FNN



9. Land Matrix meetings (May 12-15)

- Reported updates on LM implementation in Asia
- Got feedback from GIGA on areas of work
- Got commitment of GIGA to join AFA in July for a data analysis and advocacy training for FOs
- Gave suggestions on how to improve LM initiative in the region
- AFA to be invited to 2 meetings of partners this year to plan next steps of the LM



10. Dakar Declaration Committee (May 12-15)

- Attended daily meetings of the committee to work a zero draft for comments by different caucuses and a final draft for approval in the assembly of members
- Carefully gathered all comments of ILC Asia members, as well as AFA's, for inclusion in the draft



11. Field Visit (May 16)

- Ka Rene and Louise went to the land grabbing case in Diokoul (?)
- I joined the group of Latin Americans and Africans who stayed overnight near San Louis
- Visited the 200-hectare West African Farm, which is being used as a model for the PPP that the government of Senegal and the UK is developing
 - o 200 hectares given to the company for their development, another 200 hectares given to the community + access to water canal that the company has built
 - o raised questions on the terms of the contract and the negotiating position of pastoralists and recommended support to build their capacity to negotiate/renegotiate the contract
- Visited the 20,000-hectare wildlife reservation area awarded by the previous President to a company which was resisted by the community
 - o community got the commitment of the new president just before the election that the contract will be rescinded
 - o they are now continuing their legal and extra-legal struggle to regain the land



12. Others

- Asked by Mathieu of AGTER to participate in the session or contribute a statement in support of the WFAL 2016 but failed to do so due to vague information
- Asked again to support WFAL 2016 through the Dakar declaration and did not raise any objection as discussed with Esther and other members of the committee
- Asked by Auxtin of WRF for support to be member of the steering committee from the Global members and gave support in the context of our support for the IYFF+10

13. Organizations and people met as part of networking activities:

- ILC Rome: Mike, Stefano, Angela, Ashley, Patrycia, Silvia, Ana Lisa, Julien, etc.
- ILC Asia secretariat: Karishma, Erpan, Ana
- ILC Asia members: Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Kyrgyztan, Bangladesh, etc.
- IFAD: JP Audinet
- FAO: new guy (?)
- WRF: Auxtin
- Global Witness
- Oxfam: Norly
- Italy: Lucha
- France: Philippine

- Spain: Laura (?)
- Latin America: Argentina, Honduras, Paraguay, etc.
- CICODEV: Ardo (?)
- IFOAM HQ: Gabor (?)
- Etc.

ANNEXES

- Program:
 - <http://www.globallandforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/glf-programme-en3.pdf>
- Field Visit Sites:
 - <http://www.globallandforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/FIELDTRIP-NDIAEL.pdf>
 - <http://www.globallandforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/FIELDTRIP-PDIDAS.pdf>
 - <http://www.globallandforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/FIELDTRIP-DIOKOUL.pdf>
- More information about the Global Land Forum:
 - <http://www.globallandforum.org/>
- More information about the International Land Coalition”
 - <http://www.landcoalition.org/>

OFFICIAL PHOTOS



2015 Global Land Forum



ILC Asia at the 2015 Global Land Forum