



CAN

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Southeast Asia

Annual Report 2020

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INTRODUCTION

The annual report of CANSEA for 2019 described the year as highly memorable and eventful for addressing climate change issues in the region. The regional node anticipated that the momentum gained would continue into 2020.

Who would have thought that soon after, the global community would face the most devastating pandemic in our lifetimes, leading to unprecedented movement control worldwide. While confining us to our homes for months on end, it also shut down international travel and the United Nations climate conferences.

It would have been hard to imagine we would continue with our momentum under such circumstances. And yet, that is exactly what happened. By shifting to the digital platform, we continued our work with equal intensity and achieved multiple significant landmarks.

The first of these was registering CANSEA as a legal organisation in September, based on a decision taken at the Regional Meeting in 2019. This action was transformational as it changed CANSEA's status of an informal network since its formation in 1991.

Three months later, on December 10, CANSEA held a Regional Meeting and its inaugural General Assembly, updated its Charter and elected its first Board, bringing the year to a memorable end.

Two other major landmarks include CANSEA expanding its representation to six countries with our first member in Cambodia. The other was leading the preparation of a Statement, on behalf of civil society organisations, which was presented 'live' to the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change.

CANSEA also continued to actively participate in and host multiple events while also being directly engaged with research involving the region. This report documents all the activities conducted by the node during 2020.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. CANSEA RECORDS MAJOR LANDMARKS

On December 10, CANSEA recorded several historical landmarks Twenty-nine years after its creation, the regional node held its first General Assembly, elected its inaugural Board and formalised the position and tenure of the Regional Coordinator. (RC).



Participants at CANSEA's inaugural General Assembly

These developments added to the ongoing institutionalisation process of CANSEA since it became a registered legal entity in September.

Immediately prior to the General Assembly, CANSEA held its Regional Meeting (RM) which adopted the much-enhanced CANSEA Charter, as well minutes of RM2019, report for 2020 (Jan-Nov) and annual report for 2019, financial report for 2020 (Jan-Nov) and budget for 2021.

Appreciation is expressed to members who contributed greatly to this positive transition. Since its inception in 1991, CANSEA had functioned as an informal organisation with coordination and the Regional Coordinator rotating every two years between member countries. Governance was provided by a Steering Committee. The formal decision to transition to the new structure was made at the Regional Meeting held in 2019.

Members elected to the CANSEA Board are listed on page 8.

2. CANSEA IS REGISTERED

Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA) is now a legal entity. On September 18, 2020 the Companies Commission of Malaysia (CCM) approved the application to register CANSEA as a Malaysia-based regional organisation. This is a landmark moment for this regional node of CAN.

Since its creation in 1991, CANSEA has functioned as an informal organisation with its coordination rotated every two years between member countries. The important role of Southeast Asia (SEA) in raising climate ambition, as well as rising interest in the region among funding agencies, led to the need for CANSEA to register itself to be able to better respond to this challenge and opportunity.

This decision was made at the CANSEA Regional Meeting in 2019. Following research undertaken in countries in the region, it was agreed CANSEA would be registered in Malaysia and papers were subsequently submitted to CCM.



Notice of registration of CANSEA

3. FIRST MEMBER IN CAMBODIA

CANSEA was pleased to expand its representation to six countries by recruiting its first member in Cambodia. The **NGO Forum on Cambodia** (NGOC) works to improve life for poor and vulnerable people in the country. It facilitates cooperation among CSOs, builds their capacity and supports their networks to engage in policy dialogue, debate and advocacy.



During the year, the **Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation** (BTCF) – Melaka Branch in Malaysia was also approved as a CANSEA member. The BTCF has a long-standing involvement with environmental and climate issues especially on waste management and recycling. The inclusion of NGOC and BTCF increases CANSEA's membership to 21 organisations in six countries.



The list of CANSEA members and representatives is presented in Appendix A on page 9.

ADVOCACY

4. PREPARED CSC STATEMENT TO AWGCC

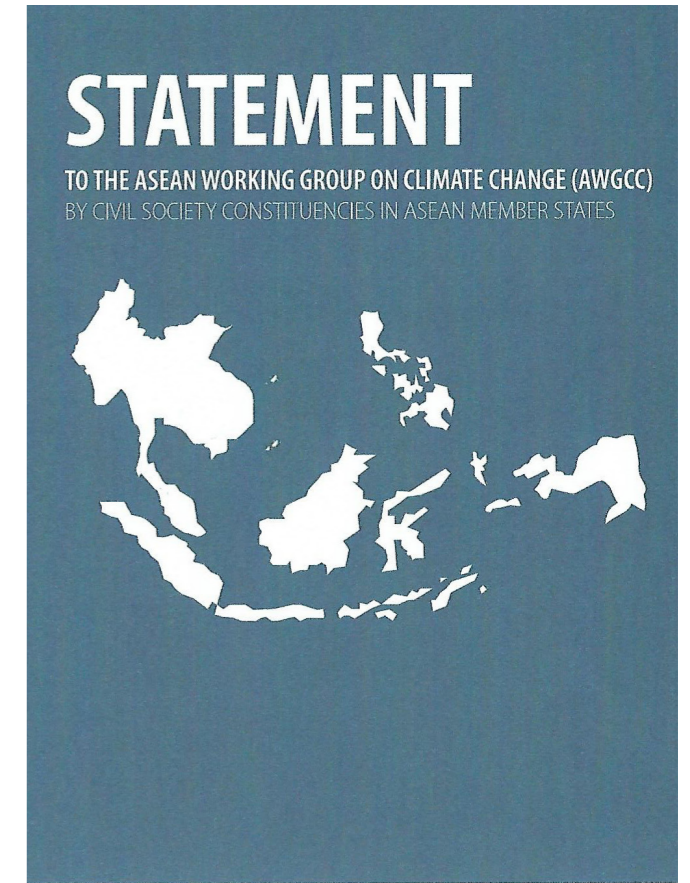
On invitation by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Southeast Asia (FES SEA), CANSEA led the preparation of the civil society constituencies (CSC) Statement to the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC), comprising the region's leading climate change negotiators. It was titled Tackling the Climate Crisis in Southeast Asia and the World,

The statement development process involved consulting with constituencies such as CAN, CANSEA, Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) Vietnam and Asian Climate Change Consortium, as well as the International Trade Unions Congress Asia-Pacific, among others. FES SEA also initiated a one-minute video featuring CANSEA and CCWG Vietnam to promote the statement and encourage civil society organisations (CSOs) to endorse it.

This unprecedented opportunity to present a statement to and participate in the AWGCC meeting was enabled by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam, the coordinator of AWGCC in 2020 while Vietnam held the chair of ASEAN. With the face-to-face meeting shelved because of the Covid-19 pandemic, AWGCC met virtually on August 27. The CSC Statement as well as video was presented by CCWG Vietnam. It received positive response from the Chair. The ASEAN Secretariat representative enquired how there could be greater engagement with CSOs in the region.

The link to the Statement is provided here: <http://cansea.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/joint-statement-to-awgcc-final.pdf>

The link to the video is provided here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uuhBhd4w3yL-D-zp9a8sVESLsRuLYDkP>



Front and back cover pages of the CSC Statement to the AWGCC

5. SENT LETTER TO INDONESIA'S FINANCE MINISTER FOR G20

In consultation with Indonesian members and with inputs from CAN-International (CAN-I), CANSEA submitted a letter to Indonesia's Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati on July 13 ahead of the G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting on July 18.

The letter requested Minister Sri Mulyani and her counterparts in G20 to ensure economic stimulus packages being delivered due to the Covid-19 pandemic focused on a Just and Sustainable Recovery. The five proposals in the letter were as follows:

1. Ensuring that the post-COVID 19 economic stimulus packages are consistent with what is needed to implement the Paris Agreement, contribute to keeping global warming below 1.5°C and avoid locking-in future emissions;

2. Ensuring equity and a just transition are at the heart of your Government's response to the current crisis;

3. Excluding investments in harmful industries such as fossil fuel infrastructure, aviation, automobile industries – other than those producing vehicles which do not run on fossil fuels – and agribusiness corporations;

4. Ending fossil fuel subsidies, halting and rapidly reversing the loss of biodiversity and natural ecosystems, promoting higher shares of renewables and energy efficiency, and ensuring socially sensitive carbon prices are introduced which reflect climate and equity imperatives;

5. Introducing coal, oil and gas consumption reduction targets in line with the 1.5°C ambition of the Paris Agreement.

6. ORGANISED WEBINARS

6.1 Clean Energy Potential in SEA

CANSEA organised the webinar on Dialogue on Clean Energy Potential for Southeast Asia – A Civil Society Perspective in partnership with the Malaysian Climate Change Group (or CAN in Malaysia) on October 23.

Well attended by 205 participants, the webinar featured one speaker representing CAN South Asia (CANSAs) and four representing CANSEA members as follows:

- Srinivas Krishnaswamy, CEO, Vasudha Foundation, India
- Gurmit Singh, Chairman, Centre for Environment, Technology and Development, Malaysia (CETDEM)
- Dicky Edwin Hindarto, Chair, Board of Directors, Yayasan Mitra Hijau (YMH – Green Partner Foundation)
- Rei Panaligan, President, Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology (CREST)
- Nguy Thi Khanh, Executive Director, Green Innovation and Development Centre (GreenID)



Flyer of webinar on Clean Energy Potential

With an active discussion following the presentations, the event received positive feedback from the participants. The Dialogue was held as part of the International Greentech & Eco Products Exhibition & Conference Malaysia (IGEM). It was organised by the Malaysian Green

6.2 Adaptation Fund Projects

CANSEA accepted the invitation from CANSA to co-host the webinar on Adaptation Fund Projects in South and Southeast Asia: Insights from CSO Perspectives, together with Adaptation Fund NGO Network and Development Alternatives on July 14.

CANSEA provided a speaker from Malaysia:

- Faizal Parish, Executive Director, Global Environment Centre.



Flyer of webinar on Adaptation Fund Projects

7. PARTICIPATED IN THREE WEBINARS AND CONTRIBUTED AN ARTICLE

7.1 Restoring Nature: An Interfaith Perspective and Call to Action

The Malaysia-based CANSEA Regional Coordinator (RC) was a panelist at this webinar organised by Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation USA. It was held on June 5 to commemorate World Environment Day. His co-panelists were from Indonesia (two representatives), Philippines, Taiwan and USA. The webinar attracted a global audience of more than 150 participants.

7.2 Coal and Climate Impacts

The RC spoke in this webinar, organised by CAN-I on October 5, on the topic of Is Southeast Asia Heading for a Coal Boom. His co-panelists were from Climate Analytics, CANSA (India), CAN Japan, Sunrise Project Australia, ECOACT Ukraine and Ecodefense Russia.



Flyer of webinar on Restoring Nature

7.3 #MYLCOY2020 Youth Assembly

The RC served as an Expert Witness at the Youth Assembly of the Malaysia Local Conference of Youth 2020 on December 13. He presented on the State of Climate Change at National, Regional and Global Levels, based on the theme of Mobilising for a Green Post-Covid-19 Recovery.



7.4 Building Power

On invitation from FES SEA, the RC wrote an article on Building Power: A Just and Sustainable Recovery in Asia. It was published on FES Asia's website on June 5 in conjunction with WED. The article can be accessed at: <https://www.fes-asia.org/news/coronabrief/>

The RC said research showed every country would be economically better off if all countries could agree to strengthen commitments on addressing the climate crisis through international cooperation.



Building power: A just and sustainable recovery in Asia

05 June 2020

Improvements in environmental indicators due to COVID-19 present an unprecedented opportunity for an economic transformation that is ecologically sustainable and socially just. Building power through movements can ensure that this happens.

Nithi Nesadurai was involved with the creation of the Climate Action Network Southeast Asia in 1992. He has been serving as its regional coordinator since late 2016.

Article on Building Power as it appeared in 'COVID-19 in Asia: Testimonies of an unfolding crisis' published by FES Asia

Who would have thought it was possible for environmental and climate change indicators in Asia to significantly improve within two months? Well, the lockdown forced by the coronavirus pandemic has done exactly that.

With an almost complete freeze on the movements of motor vehicles and airplanes as well as the large-scale closing of industries, air quality has improved across Asia, including in New Delhi, which is known for chronic air pollution. The only city without any improvement is Jakarta. But experts link this to the 12 coal-fired power plants surrounding the city and continuing their day-to-day business as usual, which emphasizes the urgent need for industries to take a stronger stand on creating an ecologically sustainable future.

Limited human and economic activities have also added to improved water quality in certain rivers, for example in Malaysia and India. Noise pollution, too, has reduced as well as the generation of hazardous waste and solid waste in general. With people confined indoors, even wildlife has started making their way further into urban spaces. Unfortunately, these positive developments have largely been a result of a virus and not due to voluntary human behaviour and government intervention. COVID-19 has had tragic consequences—a devastating toll on lives, livelihoods and economic activities. Even so, it has presented the opportunity to create a new normal and initiate the transition to an economic model centred on low-carbon development with

PARTNERSHIPS

Over the course of the year, CANSEA actively engaged with:

8. FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG

CANSEA continued to actively engage with FES SEA regional office. In addition to collaborating on the Statement to the AWGCC as well as two research projects (see 11 and 12), both organisations regularly consulted each other on developments related to climate change in the region.

9. ASEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

CANSEA developed a strategic partnership with APHR with a specific focus on getting their members as the peoples' elected representatives to raise climate change issues and champion climate ambition.

10. INDONESIA STUDENT CONFERENCE

After consulting its Indonesian members, CANSEA accepted the invitation to be a community partner of the AIChE Indonesia Student Conference (AISC) on Sustainability to be held in February 2021.

AISC comprises student body chapters of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) in Indonesia. CANSEA members in Indonesia and the RC agreed to serve as mentors to the students.



CANSEA is a mentor organisation for AISC 2021

"...every country would be economically better off if all countries could agree to strengthen commitments on addressing the climate crisis through international cooperation." (See section 7.3)

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CAN-RELATED ACTIVITIES

CANSEA was directly involved with the following research studies.

11. FES-CAN RESEARCH STUDY ON CLIMATE AMBITION

CANSEA was involved with the development and implementation of the FES-CAN research study on Raising Climate Ambition: Civil Society Perspectives for Anchoring Policies in Support of Societal Change and Transformation. Philippines was one of the countries featured in the study and our member CREST conducted the research. Three other nodes also participated in this project – Arab World, Kenya and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Following the project's conclusion, a webinar was held on December 3 as part of the UN Climate Change Dialogues 2020. The link to the study is: [17325-20210331.pdf \(fes.de\)](#)

12. RESEARCH STUDY ON DIVESTMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

CANSEA accepted the invitation from FES in SEA to be involved with a research study on Shifting Investment Away from Fossil Fuels in Southeast Asia. Subsequently, CANSEA got involved with identifying, shortlisting and interviewing potential organisations, as well as selecting Climate Analytics to conduct the research. While covering SEA in general, the study features deep dives into Philippines and Vietnam. The study commenced in May and the first draft was presented in November. Once completed, training sessions for CSOs to use the information for advocacy purposes will be held.

13. IKI PROJECT ON JUST TRANSITION

CAN-I was part of a consortium including GIZ, ILO and ITUC, which successfully developed a proposal to undertake a project on Just Transition covering Indonesia and India, with funding provided by German agency International Climate Initiative (IKI). Indonesia's inclusion led to the involvement of CANSEA and its member YMH in the project, which started with the structuring of and planning for the scoping study. It is expected to commence by March 2021.

14. JOINED ANNUAL STRATEGY MEETINGS

CANSEA was represented at CAN's Annual Strategy Meetings in Arusha, Tanzania from February 25 to 29 by:

- Dicky Edwin Hindarto, Chair, Governing Board, YMH, Indonesia
- Nithi Nesadurai, RC, CANSEA

The RC served as a member of the Nominations Committee which managed the election process of the Board of CAN. From March 1-3, the RC attended the Node Coordinators meeting.



Dicky (in blue shirt) participating in a group activity



Nithi (left) with Nominations Committee members Happy Khambule (South Africa CAN) and Keya Chatterji (USCAN)

15. PITCHED FOR NDF 2020

Following its successful pitch for the Node Development Fund (NDF) 2019 facilitated by CAN-I, CANSEA again successfully pitched for NDF2020. Its proposal had two components – governance training for the (to-be-appointed) CANSEA Board members and stipend for the RC. The total amount allocated was EUR10,000.

16. SUPPORTED IMPACTS CAMPAIGN

CANSEA members CREST and NGO participated in CAN-I's Impacts campaign. It involved being trained in film making using the phone to make short videos of communities impacted by climate change. The video produced by CREST and NGOC can be viewed at these links: <https://vimeo.com/464052595/823ef60e63> and <https://vimeo.com/492487386/0d355b52b5>

17. PARTICIPATED IN EASTERN PCG MEETINGS

The RC represented CANSEA at the weekly Political Coordination Group (PCG) meeting hosted by CAN-I's Head of Policy for nodes in Asia and the Pacific. On October 29, the RC made a presentation on Climate Status of Southeast Asia and CANSEA's Response. On October 15, Dicky Edwin Hindarto presented to the group on the climate related situation in Indonesia.

18. BUDGET FOR 2020

CANSEA only source of funding in 2020 was from the NDF 2019 which provided EUR20,000, primarily for a regional meeting (RM) and stipend for the RC. As CANSEA could not utilise the allocation for the RM in 2020 due to Covid-19, some of it was used to hire an Assistant for the RC for two months. His role was to strengthen communication platforms, especially the website and social media channels. He also assisted with the hosting of CANSEA's virtual Regional Meeting (RM) and General Assembly. Funds meant for hosting, the physical RM will be used for a publication on Climate and Energy Status in SEA.

19. CANSEA BOARD

The following members were elected to CANSEA's Board at the General Assembly:

- Arifah Handayani Abdul Hakim – Climate Reality Indonesia
- Dicky Edwin Hindarto - Yayasan Mitra Hijau (Indonesia)
- Serena Lew – Global Environment Centre (Malaysia)
- Syaql Suhaimi – Malaysian Youth Delegation
- Zara Phang – WWF-Malaysia
- Nguy Thi Khanh – Green Innovation and Development Centre (Vietnam)
- Tran Thi Hoa – Centre for Supporting Green Development (Vietnam)

MISCELLANEOUS

In addition, the RC:

- Accepted the invitation by the **Italian Embassy** behalf of the Italian Government as co-organiser of COP26, to be a link to youth organisations in Malaysia and SEA in the run up to the event.
- Gave responses to the CAN-I Communications team on the **NDCs released by Singapore and Vietnam.**
- Attended the **CAN Funders Advisory Group** on September 24 with representatives of funding agencies and presented CANSEA as a case study on why providing financial support to CAN nodes had positive and tangible impacts.
- Participated in a zoom call with Eva-Maria Jongen, Director of the **Bread for the World (BftW)** Regional Office Vietnam and Lao PDR, in October, on the potential for BftW to engage with CANSEA in the region.
- Provided inputs to CAN's **2021-2025 Global Strategy draft** on October 30.
- Participated in a zoom call with Peter Bruun Clausen, Asia Regional Advisor for **CARE Denmark** based in Hanoi, Vietnam, on December 11, on the potential for collaboration between CARE and CANSEA in Southeast Asia.

- Participated in CAN's Working Group on **Ambition and NDC** and on the Task Force on **Fair Share and Equity.**

- Contributed CANSEA-related updates to members on a regular basis and on **CAN-Talk.**

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Climate Action Network Southeast Asia

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LIST OF CANSEA MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES IN 2020

Country/Member Organisations	Representative	Email Address
Cambodia		
• The NGO Forum on Cambodia	Menghoin HOK (Mr)	menghoin@ngoforum.org.kh
Indonesia		
• Climate Reality Project	Dr Amanda Katili Niode (Ms)	amanda.niode.id@climatereality.com
• Institute for Essential Service Reform	Fabby Tumiwa (Mr)	fabby@iesr.or.id
• HIVOS Southeast Asia	Henriette Imelda (Ms)	imelda@hivos.org
• WWF-Indonesia	Indrasari Wardhani (Ms)	iwardhani@wwf.id
• Yayasan Mitra Hijau (Green Partner Foundation)	Dicky Edwin Hindarto (Mr)	dickyedwin@gmail.com
Malaysia		
• Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation – Melaka Branch	Foo Jia Jiann (Mr)	jjfoo@tzuchi.my
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• Environmental Protection Society Malaysia	Jane Ang (Ms)	epsm@epsm.org.my
• Global Environment Centre	Serena Goh (Ms)	serena@gec.org.my
• Malaysian Nature Society	Balu Perumal (Mr)	hod.conservation@mns.org.my
• Persatuan Belia Perubahan Iklim (Climate Change Youth Association) – Malaysian Youth Delegation	Syaql Suhaimi (Mr)	sheikh.syaql@gmail.com
• WWF-Malaysia	Lavanya Rama Iyer (Ms)	lrama@wwf.org.my
Philippines		
• Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology	Rei Panaligan (Mr)	
Thailand		
• Climate Watch Thailand	Wanun Permpibul (Ms)	wanunp@yahoo.com
• Community Empowerment Institute	Nutthawut Uppa (Mr)	tor_148@hotmail.com
• Forest and Farmers Foundation	Sakhon Songma (Mr)	local_ngo@hotmail.com
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• Thai NGO Committee on Agrarian Reform & Rural Development	Boonyuen Wingsa-Nguan (Mr)	wcarrdthai@gmail.com
Vietnam		
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