

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Readers,

For this issue and the succeeding two issues of *Kasarinlan: Philippine Journal of Third World Studies*, I am pleased to inform you that we will be including *Anib: The Official Newsletter of the UNRISD-Philippine Research Team on Global Civil Society Movements*. The newsletter wishes to share with you the developments in the on-going research of the United Nations Research Institute on Social Development (UNRISD) and the Philippine Research Team (UNRISD-PRT) on "Global Civil Society Movements: Dynamics in International Campaigns and National Implementation." As pointed out in the research project's rationale, the study

proposes to assess a number of contemporary transnational social movements that have gained prominence in recent years, namely campaigns associated with debt relief, changes to international trade rules, global taxation, anti-corruption and fair trade. The project explores participatory practices, as well as their ability to push for alternative proposals.

Asides from the Philippines, the other countries which are involved in this project are Argentina, Bolivia, Senegal and Turkey. The UNRISD research also aims "to critically assess the capacity and potential for action of the selected civil society movements and networks in national and local contexts."

The research themes of the UNRISD research project on global civil society movements very well complements the thrust of *Kasarinlan* as both academic initiatives seek to provide a critical perspective on issues affecting Third World countries with special reference to political economy. One of the major objectives of this endeavor is to provide alternatives to mainstream perspectives dealing with the issues of democratization and development as well as solutions to poverty and socio-economic inequalities. The focus of the UNRISD research projects are social movements and the manner in which local and global initiatives link with each other for a common cause.

The UNRISD-PRT has chosen to call its newsletter *Anib*, a Filipino word which has a meaning that ranges from direct participation in a movement or an organization whether as a member, an ally, or an affiliate to merely sharing the sentiment or cause espoused by a group. In other Filipino languages, like Ilocano, *anib* means amulet or charm; in Ivatan, honor or repute; in Hiligaynon, an

additional layer of a material. In these different linguistic and cultural contexts, *anib* comes out as a word that invokes images of cooperation and power, of people willfully coming together to attain an honorable goal—characteristics that also aptly describe global civil society movements.

For this maiden issue of *Anib*, we have included the article “The Contemporary Global Social Movements: Emergent Proposals, Connectivity and Development Implications” by Kleber Ghimire, the UNRISD research project overall coordinator. Ghimire’s article provides the overall context of the research and problematizes current actions of global movements and more importantly, examines the emergence of transnational activism which seeks to bring about an “alternative globalization,” i.e., going beyond the conventional opposition strategies to the existing system dominated by the neoliberal ideology.

Further discussions are highlighted on this problematic as can be gleaned from the “Report on the Methodological Workshop on Global Civil Society Movements: Dynamics in International Campaigns and National Implementation” of the five UNRISD national research project team as represented by their respective national coordinators of which are the following: Alejandro Grimson, Instituto de Desarrollo Economico y Social/ Universidad de San Martin, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Fernando Mayorga Ugarte, Centro de Estudios Superiores Universitarios/ Universidad Mayor de San Simon (CESU-UMSS), Cochabamba, Bolivia; Teresa S. Encarnacion Tadem, Department of Political Science, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines-Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines; Ibrahim Thioub, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Dakar, Senegal; and Nuri Zafer Yenel, Sociology Department, Bogaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey.

And lastly, the UNRISD-PRT also wishes to share with you in this newsletter its proposal which seeks to examine select Philippine national and transnational civil society movements in the five case studies as previously enumerated. As pointed out in the research proposal, “focus is placed on their emergence, present capabilities and methods of action, outcomes and trajectories...”. The analyses are done in both the domestic and transnational contexts of their activism.

We hope that the newsletter would provide intellectual stimulation in the light of the current debates with regard to the effectiveness of the efforts of transnational activism as waged by social movements in their efforts to link local initiatives with global ones and vice-versa.

Teresa S. Encarnacion Tadem
Editor

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