



Thai Working Group for Climate Justice (TCJ)

Strengthen civil society roles in just transition toward low carbon society with better preparation for disaster and climate adaptation

TCJ Members:

The Thai Working Group for Climate Justice or TCJ is a coalition of non-governmental organizations and individual activists in Thailand established in early 2008. TCJ members and its network include those working in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity, forest and land reform, energy and industrial development, and trade and environment. Current key member organizations of TCJ are BIOTHAI Foundation, Ecological Alert and Recovery - Thailand (EARTH), Focus on the Global South, Foundation for Consumers, Foundation for Ecological Recovery (FER), NET Foundation, Nuclear Watch, Project for Ecological Awareness Building, and Sustainable Agriculture Foundation. TCJ's network of community groups or grassroots movements includes Alternative Agriculture Network, Assembly of the Poor, Community Forest Network, Federation of Southern Local Fisherfolks, Indigenous People Network Thailand, Thailand Land Reform Network, Northern People's Network on Natural Resources, Southern Youth Network on Local Fisheries, Women Network, and various people's networks on energy and industrial development.

Key Goals:

The key goals of TCJ are to raise public awareness and to empower Thai civil society and grassroots movements on climate change related issues, with particular focus on justice aspects (environmental, economic, political, and social) in climate debates and climate policies, and to challenge the current unsustainable development model. At the same time, TCJ aims to promote justice aspects of climate change among academia, policy makers, and the media. Equally important, climate and development policy space must be enlarged to facilitate public participation in order to realize genuine mitigation and appropriate adaptation measures.

Strengths:

TCJ is the first, and thus far the only, civil society coalition on climate justice in Thailand. The core members of TCJ help provide necessary expertise in fields such as forestry, agriculture, industry and energy development. Also, due to the regional and international connections of some of its core members, TCJ has a capacity to work cross

borders, making links with regional and international networks on climate change. On this account, TCJ hosted the Asian People's Solidarity for Climate Justice meeting in October 2009, with around 3,000 climate activists from Thailand and around the world participating. An important strength of TCJ is the ability to dialogue with policy makers and implementers at various levels, while simultaneously working with and bringing together grassroots movements from different parts of Thailand to mobilize on climate related issues. This ability has also resulted in the enlargement of political space for grassroots movements on climate matters and beyond.

Activities and achievements in 2011:

On developing climate justice arguments, two public forums were organized in 2011. During the UNFCCC April Bangkok meetings (AWG-KP 16 and AWG-LCA 14), TCJ, the Philippine Movement on Climate Justice (PMCJ) and Focus organized a series of public seminars to raise concerns on specific issues: the carbon market and its deficiency to save the climate, political economy of REDD, and the concept Rights of Mother Earth. In September 2011, TCJ with Focus on the Global South and Chulalongkorn University organized a national forum "Think Big and Look Beyond: Thai Society and Climate Change" to discuss various issues: just transition toward a low carbon society, energy sector reform, carbon markets, and climate adaptation and food security.

On national policy advocacy, TCJ and its networks have been pushing for public participation in the drafting process of the 'National Master Plan on Climate Change' since March 2010. In one of TCJ's main achievements in 2011, a strong public campaign convinced the government of Thailand to adopt TCJ's proposed process to hold thorough public consultations prior to and post redrafting of the National Master Plan. TCJ also helped to facilitate a series of public consultations covering all regions of the country; consequently TCJ produced "People's Recommendations for Drafting of the National Master Plan on Climate Change", which was submitted to the redrafting committee.

On promoting just and effective mitigation measures, in 2011 TCJ focused on exposing carbon markets as false climate policies and measures in Thailand. Implications of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects on local communities were explored in a research project "CDM (biomass projects) and justice at community level" which was presented at the Civil Society Workshop on Carbon Markets in Southeast Asia organized by CDM Watch and Focus on the Global South in October.

On regional initiatives and linking climate activists, during the UNFCCC Bangkok meetings, TCJ organized a bike rally to raise awareness among the public and the UNFCCC negotiators on issues related to climate justice in Southeast Asia. The event added allies to TCJ with the participation of many Thai urban environmental groups, as well as regional groups such as PMCJ, Jubilee South - Asia Pacific Movement on Debt & Development, and Indonesian Civil Society Forum on Climate Change. During the same period TCJ organized a regional seminar in April 2011 with PMCJ (mentioned above) with the active participation of civil society groups from Cambodia, Loa PDR, Vietnam, and Indonesia. On the last day of the seminar a meeting to strengthen the links among groups in the region was organized. Plans to collaborate further were adopted, including a follow up meeting which happened at the ASEAN People Forum in Bali later in the year.