



Land Watch Asia Working Group on Mainstreaming Land Rights as Human Rights

The Land Watch Asia Working Group on Land Rights as Human Rights (LWA WG LRHR) is a platform of civil society organizations from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines working towards the recognition of land rights as human rights, through evidence-based advocacy and multi-stakeholder policy dialogues at national and regional levels. The LWA WG LRHR is presently engaged in mainstreaming land rights in the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, examining the trends in land grabbing in Asia, and monitoring land and resource conflicts and their effects on rights defenders and communities.

ANGOC serves as the convener of this working group.



Founded in 1979, the **Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)** is a regional association of national and regional networks of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Asia actively engaged in food security, agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, participatory governance, and rural development. ANGOC network members and partners work in 10 Asian countries together with 3,000 CSOs and community-based organizations (CBOs). ANGOC actively engages in joint field programs and policy discussions with national governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and international financial institutions (IFIs).

ANGOC is a member of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCA) Consortium, and the International Land Coalition (ILC).

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Association for Realisation of Basic Needs (ARBAN), a non-government development organization concerned with the fundamental rights and the basic needs of landless agricultural laborers, sharecroppers and marginalized people, was founded on 18 February 1984. It works with the rural-urban poor and powerless and indigenous people for their socio-economic, cultural, and political empowerment and emancipation from all forms of bondages including injustices, inequalities and dispossession by promoting and practicing democratic values and participatory development processes at all levels through implementing various projects and programs.

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Centre for Legislative Research and Advocacy (CLRA) is an independent, not-for-profit, non-partisan initiative, which works to support and strengthen Parliament and legislatures so as to realize the

values of democratic governance. Through research, advocacy, networking, and other allied activities CLRA seeks to promote and reinforce the constitutionally assigned roles and functions of parliamentary institutions. This includes supporting institutional development and capacity building aimed at cultivating a well-functioning, sustainable and pluralistic system of democratic polity. CLRA is the pioneer organization in this comprehensive area of work in India. CLRA works closely with civil society groups, parliamentary institutions, legislators, political parties, civil servants, and media to create participatory and collective wisdom and praxis in the policy and decision-making process.

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Community Development Association (CDA) is a non-government development organization that has been facilitating the rural poor, landless and marginal farmers, the plain land Indigenous people (IP) including differently able men, women, and rural youth with a view to empower, ensure access

to land rights and mobilize the people-centered land governance and agrarian reform upon the contextual needs and demands led by 700 village-based peoples organizations in the north-western part of Bangladesh.

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Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) has been at the forefront of land and agrarian rights campaign in Nepal. CSRC educates, organizes, and empowers people deprived of their basic rights to land to lead free,

secure, and dignified lives. The organization's programs focus on strengthening community organizations, developing human rights defenders, improving livelihoods, and promoting land and agrarian reform among land-poor farmers. Since its establishment, CSRC has constantly worked to transform discriminatory and unjust social relations by organizing landless, land poor and marginalized communities to claim and exercise their rights.

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Established in 1994, the **Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA)** currently consists of 153 people's organizations (peasants, indigenous peoples, rural women,

fisherfolk, urban poor) and NGOs in 23 provinces in Indonesia. KPA fights for agrarian reform in Indonesia through advocacy and the strengthening of people's organizations. KPA's focus on land reform and tenurial security, and policy advocacy on these issues has put the coalition at the forefront of the land rights struggles of Indonesia's landless rural poor, especially with indigenous peoples in several areas in Outer Java. KPA encourages a participatory and pluralistic approach which recognizes the development of different systems of land use and tenure to ensure land rights. KPA is a people's movement that has an open and independent character.

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Ekta Parishad is a people's movement dedicated to non-violent principles of action, which aims to see India's poorest people gain control over livelihood resources, especially land, water and forest. Ekta Parishad is a federation of approximately 11,000 community based

organizations with thousands of individual members. It is currently operating in 10 States working for the land and livelihood rights of India's most marginalized communities.

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Social Development Foundation (SDF) was founded in October 1998 with an aim to strengthen the autonomous grassroots movements, build secular

democratic leadership among the most marginalized communities and develop scientific temper among people. The organization reached the most marginalized communities and started the land literacy campaign among them. SDF focuses on land reforms with right-based approach. Though the organization was constituted in Delhi, its main grassroots operations are mainly in the Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand States. SDF also provides necessary support to engage with policy makers, social movements, academics, lawyers, and civil society organizations.

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STAR Kampuchea (SK) is a Cambodian non-profit and non-partisan organization established in 1997 dedicated to building democracy through strengthening of civil societies. SK also provides direct support to communities suffering from resource conflicts like land-grabbing and land rights abuses through capacity building and legal services.

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The People's Campaign for Agrarian Reform Network, Inc. (AR Now!) is an advocacy and campaign center for the promotion of agrarian reform and sustainable development. Its vision is to achieve peasant empowerment, agrarian and

aquatic reform, sustainable agriculture and rural development.

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Xavier Science Foundation, Inc. (XSF) is a non-political, non-stock, non-profit organization established and designed to encourage, support, assist, and finance projects and programs dedicated to the pursuit of social and educational development of the people in Mindanao. It is a

legal and financial mechanism generating and managing resources to support such socially-concerned and development-oriented projects and programs.

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Land Watch Asia (LWA) is a regional campaign to ensure that access to land, agrarian reform and sustainable development for the rural poor are addressed in national

and regional development agenda. The campaign involves civil society organizations in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines. LWA aims to take stock of significant changes in the policy and legal environments; undertake strategic national and regional advocacy activities on access to land; jointly develop approaches and tools; and encourage the sharing of experiences on coalition-building and actions on land rights issues.

ANGOC is the convener of LWA.



The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations working

together to put people at the center of land governance. The shared goal of ILC's over 200 members is to realize land governance for, and with people at the country level, responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women, men and communities who live on and farm the land.

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Driven by the desire for profit and investments, the rich and powerful were able to tilt the playing field firmly toward their side. As a result, the poor and marginalized are being systematically dispossessed of coveted precious land that is theirs by right. This growing land grabbing phenomenon and the conflicts that it has inevitably spawned are seen across the region and detailed in this edition of Lok Niti, which aims to provide key perspectives on how and why land grabbing is happening in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines. Given these dire conditions, a number of recommendations have been outlined in the papers presented in this journal.



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