



Immersed in the reform process

2016 Asia Pacific Staff Retreat

Natural Resource Governance Institute

May 9-12, 2016 [Novotel Inle Lake Myat Min](#), Southern Shan State, Myanmar

Background

In Asia Pacific, the NRGi team began the year with a clear blueprint: a country strategy in Myanmar and Indonesia. While the roll out has started in 2015, our strategic priorities outline the reform targets we envisage in the extractive industries in the next three years. Aimed at providing meaningful contributions to the substance and process of revising overarching laws, implementing rules, institutional mandates, and practices in the petroleum and mining sectors, staff in the region are gearing up for an eventful year.

The strategic partnerships that we pursue with Myanmar NGOs and ethnic groups and echoing the policy messages to the new decision-makers in the democratically elected NLD government from our recent reports on state economic enterprise (SEEs), on shared management of resources, and from our charter benchmarking feature greatly in our everyday lives in the country. At the same time, the technical assistance we provide to the Indonesian Parliament and the MoU that we signed with Indonesia's planning ministry early this year are giving us formal avenues to contribute into the revision processes. By convening policy dialogues with various stakeholders, generating policy briefs, and involving ministry officials into technical training, we are beginning to make a footprint in the amendment of petroleum and mining laws while advancing our shared agenda with Indonesian CSOs and academicians on anti-corruption and subnational resource governance.

Although we operate in countries with varying difficulties and opening for reform, we all recognize that these are essential to defining the parameters of our support to resource-rich economies in transition. Whatever limits we face and whoever the key players we engage, what is common in our country programming is our ability to respond, be flexible, and seek alternatives to push our advocacy goals with others. Whether it's a capacity development for media and ministry officials, political muscle building with the parliament, producing policy briefs, managing grants for activist groups, a protracted strategy to support the EITI process and popularize the reports, or a consultative approach to assist a resource-rich district in establishing a legislation for subnational resource fund, we all orient our suite of services towards better legal framework and practices in the resource governance in the region.

There's no question that we are all immersed in a very serious undertaking. Our everyday lives revolve around structural change and catalyzing innovations despite the intransigence of others. Nevertheless, let us not forget that every piece of work that we do – in pursuit of transparency, accountability and economic equity managing resource wealth - also needs time for reflection, shared learning, and yes, fun. This is why we are bringing together members of the Asia Pacific team – old and new. This is the time to remind ourselves that we can do better if we can capitalize from our collective strengths and shared learning. Besides, we deserve to have a break from our day-to-day, business as usual pattern. This is the time to regroup.

Purpose

The regional staff retreat is intended to:

- Revisit our strategic priorities and the assumptions that underpin them so we have a better appreciation as a team about the relevance of our work at the country and regional fronts;
- Facilitate exchange of practical ideas and insights to improve our communication, gender and monitoring, evaluation and learning strategies as well as practices, all essential to increasing the quality and impacts of our work; and
- Have fun as a team. We hope to have everyone re-energized from this moment of shared learning and planning.

Expected results

- Updated 2016 country and regional work plans and staff work plan
- Improved staff understanding of global program and some regional strategies for improved coordination and shared learning
- Updated priorities in our country and regional gender strategies
- Updated country and regional communication plans
- Updated staff accountability approach in 2016 using the DARCI framework
- Professional competency improvement needs are identified for discussion with concerned teams
- Major events that require cross-country team coordination are identified
- A summary of lessons to improve staff coordination, program quality and impacts

Participants

- From Myanmar: Matthieu Salomon, Maw Htun Aung, Ko Ko Lwin, Aung Sandar Tun, Paul Shortell, and new Myanmar Associate (tbc)
- From Indonesia: Jelson Garcia, Emanuel Bria, Fikri Muhammadi
- Senior management (joining by phone or video - tbc)
- Program Directors and some regional directors (joining by phone or video – tbc)

Agenda

Activity	Lead/Facilitator
9 May, Monday	
Morning	
• Departure from Yangon to Heho	
• Late morning arrival in the venue	
12:30	
• Lunch	
14:00	
• Get to know your colleagues differently and better	Maw Htun
• Expectation check, overview of agenda and rules	Jelson and Ko Ko
16:00	
• Tour at Red Mountain vineyard till sunset	
19:00	
• Dinner	
• Call with program and regional directors (1)	
10 May, Tuesday	
9:00	
• Discussion on Myanmar strategy	Matthieu
10:30	
• Break	
10:45	
• Discussion on Indonesia strategy	Emanuel
12:15	
• Lunch	
13:15	
• Discussion on RegINA	Emanuel
14:00	
• Discussion on limited country engagements, other regional work ideas, and thematic groups	Jelson
15:00	
• Break	Matthieu
15:15	
• Discussion on communication strategy	Paul
16:15	
• Summing up the day sessions	Ko Ko and Fikri
19:00	
• Dinner	
• Call with program and regional directors (2)	
11 May, Wednesday	
7:30	
• Boating at Inya lake	
• Breakfast	
10:00	
• Our gender strategy	Jelson
11:00	
• Professional development needs	Maw Htun
11:30	
• Key dates and announcements: events, reports, regular meetings	Matthieu
12:30	
• Lunch	
13:30	
• DARCI	Emanuel
14:30	
• Review of staff work plan	Matthieu
15:30	
• Summation of the day sessions; evaluation	Paul and Fikri
19:00	
• Dinner	
• Catching up with the Senior management	
12 May, Thursday	
• Breakfast and departure	

Logistics and budget

Budget

Jakarta-Yangon (return)	3 persons	\$1,058
Yangon-Heho (return)	8 persons	\$1,110
Accommodation (Shan State) and meeting room	8 persons	\$6,424
Accommodation (Yangon)	3 persons	\$270
Local transport, meals	8 persons	\$1,138
		\$10,000

Sandar (astun@resourcegovernance.org) handles domestic flight and hotel arrangements. Please coordinate with her, copying Matthieu.