



GALAA ASIA
GLOBAL ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Glo-cal Advocacy Leadership Academy : Colombo : 'Mainstreaming Peace and Human Rights in the CSO engagement with SDGs in Asia'

GALAA is an annual regional training program for middle-level civil society leaders engaged in the engagement with SDGs in Asia since 2013 to mainstream cross-cutting issues such as human rights, democracy and peace in the SDGs with focus on SDG 16 and 17.

The GALAA 2018 under the theme 'Mainstreaming Peace and Human Rights in the CSO engagement with SDGs in Asia' was organized in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 23 to 30 August 2018 by Asia Development Alliance (ADA) in partnership with INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre as a local host and International Forum of National NGO Platform (IFP) and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network as international partner organizations.

The program was financially supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and European Union through IFP.

Objectives

The general objective of the GALAA South Asia 2017 was to enhance leadership capacity of the middle-level CSO leaders in Asia, who shall play a leadership role in effective engagement with SDGs at the national and international level with transformative and integral human rights-based approach to SDGs

In particular, at the end of the weeklong training, participants had attained the following specific learning objectives: 1) necessary knowledge about SDGs and its implementation process and mechanisms with focus on SDG 16 and 17, 2) practical knowledge about conflict-sensitive, climate-sensitive, gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach to SDGs, and 3) better strategies and action plans on CSO engagement with SDGs including the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

GALAA 2018 has also helped participants to learn about nexus approach titled 'transformative and integral approach to SDGs' that is conflict-sensitive, gender-sensitive, climate-sensitive and human rights-based approach to SDGs by linking SDG 5, 13, 16, and 17

The Asia Democracy Conference (ADC) 2018



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The Asia Democracy Conference (ADC) was organized on 24-25 Aug. 2018 by the Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF) in cooperation with Asia Democracy Network (ADN) and ADA as part of the orientation program for GALAA participants. The ADC 2018 under the theme –Peace and Democracy – Democratic transitions and Social Integration in Asia|| is expected



to address the state of democracy, human rights and peace in Asia including case study about 5 countries – Sri Lanka, Nepal, Philippines, Malaysia and South Korea.

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30 Participants from all over Asia and one from Pacific attended the 5 days training program.

The participants were oriented synergising local and global connect (bottom up and top down) apart from the role of public advocacy which is a set of organized (communicative) actions by CSOs and people themselves to influence development policy-making process – planning, implementation and evaluation - and outcomes for sustainable positive change / transformation through a variety of actions including campaign, lobby, litigation and direct actions and using Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a tool for the advocacy.

The program was also oriented towards linking and focusing SDGs with human rights, peace, environment, social movement, economic development, gender equality and democracy and overall inclusive development. During the opening day, the participants also got to hear the experiences from three social development experts and renowned activists, Dr. Denison



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Jayasoorya (Malaysia), Ms. Dwi Ruby Kholifah (Indonesia) and Mr. Daya sagar Shreshtha (Nepal) .

Dr. Jayasooriya discussed the Challenges and Concerns related to SDGs in Malaysia.

- On SDGs while we have had good opportunities for input to VNRs & SDG Roadmap but its not partnership
- With New government – still early for role in policy input, planning, delivery, monitoring & impact assessment. Current ad hoc & personality driven
- Good future possibility via Parliamentary select committees.
- CSO/NGO personalities close to govt. Issue of advocacy & objectivity
- Capacity of CSO on SDG work ie in cross cutting matters. Tend to now be more silo focus. Need for integrating SDGs in practice.
- Issues for localising SDGs. We tend to be city focus. We are getting out of Klang valley and KL area to other locations in Malaysia via networking and State level alliance formation
- Documenting success stories and using common data collection.
- Disaggregated approach for regional, national comparisons- theme of leaving no one behind

Role of the Civil society

- SDGs provide clear spaces for CSO partnership & participation.
- There are good modalities at both UN New York & UN ESCAP for engagement at global and regional levels including funding
- However at the sub regional levels such as ASEAN & National levels this has not been effectively implemented.
- Malaysian CSO-SDG Alliance undertook a mapping exercise to note the CSO involvement & commitment in SDGs.
- We noted:- Human Rights CSOs, Environmental CSOs and development CSO. Many focused on different target groups such as women, youths, urban & rural poor, indigenous people, disable people & other groups
- Among the roles include:- Advocacy. Service provision, capacity building, research etc

Dwi Ruby shared her thoughts on Women, Peace and security (WPS) in Asia on how women are vulnerable to extreme violence especially in conflict situation.

There is a need to ensure maintremaing women peace and security through;

Breaking silos between humanitarian, peace, security and development finance by investing in enhancing women’s engagement, leadership and empowerment across all phases of the crisis, peace, security, and development contiguum.

Addressing structural funding gaps for women’s participation by improving the timeliness, predictability and flexibility of international assistance.



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Improving policy coherence and coordination by complementing existing financial instrument and promoting synergy across the actors

Mr. Dyaa Sagar Shreshtha from NFN shared the CSOs experience in the SDGs engagement process in Nepal and engagement in the VNR process initiated by the

government. He shared the strategies to engage meaningfully:

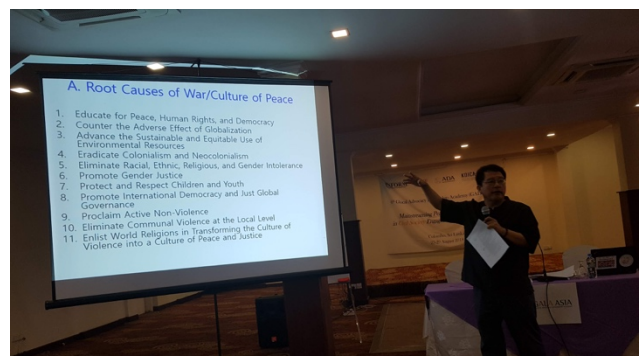
- Build coalition among CSOs
- Ensure representation in government mechanisms
- Partnership with parliamentarians
- Open Government Partnership
- Tracking progress
- Build relation with UN Agencies at national level

Focus of GALA Training:

As discussed earlier, this year the focus of the 4 days long training program was on linking SDGs with human rights and peace which works / **operates mostly in silos and then using the nexus approach to further link this with gender, environment and democracy.**

SDGs and Peace

Sharing the much needed thoughts **on linking peace with SDGs, Dr. Francis LEE (S. Korea)**, the narrated process whereby conflict is resolved and used to build the capacity of groups to develop alliances that value equitable relationships, promote harmony, **and effect systems change** and discussed the stages of conflict management, resolution and transformations. He also mentioned that conflict transformation includes Conflict transformation: deep and structural change, build relationships, analyze conflict, address root causes, change legal system, change diplomacy, install





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restorative justice, community building, trauma healing, democratic governance, build peace capacity.

He later worked on the exercise were the participants were able to understand and resolve the conflict situation at the local level :

Conflict Sensitivity Lens	Conflict Analysis	Main Conflict Area (What is the conflict in question?)	Location (Specific)	Main Actors (high-, middle-, low level actors)	Dimensions of Conflict (personal, relational, structural, cultural...)	Details of Conflict (how it started, developed, changed...)	Reflection (on the process of analysis)
	Theory of Change	If (we do this)	Then (outcome)	Because (rational)	Target Group	Beneficiaries	Risks & possibilities/ dividers & connectors
	Programme Logic	Key stakeholders and their inputs to prg	Planned activities/dates	Planned outputs	Expected changes in target group	Expected impacts to beneficiaries	Risks and possibilities/ dividers & connectors

Elaborating the concept further, Mr. Anselmo LEE, Senior advisor to ADA , shared on linking peace with SDGs through Historical evaluation of peace and SDGs, International Mechanisms and agenda on SDGs and peace and 4 Main Approaches



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He inferred and concluded the session by mentioning the report entitled 'Pathways for Peace', commissioned by the UN and the World Bank which highlights the following:

- Violent conflict is increasingly recognized as one of the big obstacles to reaching the SDGs.
- Preventing fragility, conflict and violence is central to reducing poverty and achieving shared prosperity.

Output:

Peace is an integral part of the development and the participants were able to understand and analyse this fact after doing an exercise together relevant with their respective local/national issues by following the logic (as expressed in the diagram above). This session has been one of the important highlight of the entire training program as participants belonging to the conflict areas (Pakistan, Bangladesh) or working on the peace could relate to it and learned new methodology to be implemented practically in their areas of work.



The participants also discussed and shared the homework and quiz given to them prior to the formal in person training in Colombo, in the concluding session on the SDGs and peace. The whole exercise made the participants aware on importance of linking peace and SDGs (development) and



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enabled them to establish a positive correlations between these two syncing with the UN Agenda 2030.

“The best way to prevent societies from descending into crisis—including but not limited to conflict—is to ensure they are resilient through investment in inclusive and sustainable development. For all countries, addressing inequalities and exclusion, making institutions more inclusive, and ensuring that development strategies are risk-informed are central to preventing the fraying of the social fabric that could erupt into crisis.” - UN-World Bank Pathways for Peace 2018

Linking Human Rights and SDGs

Linking human rights with SDGs have been discussed for the longest time and its time to talk about it and train more people on how development can impact and create some serious human right violations. Dr. Denison rightly said in his opening remarks ‘its important to understand what development means to us, for our communities including the poor, the marginalized, the discriminated, the elderly, disabled persons, low caste persons, landless people, stateless people, farmers, human rights defenders, women, LGBTIQ community and so on. The development has not used the same spoon when delivering the benefits of development to everybody.

Few miles away from here, the Chinese funded Colombo port city is a better example of the conflict between people and the development projects – and the questioning roles of governments, and international and local power politics. In our countries development has brought debt, corruption, and human rights violations. Meanwhile the development projects have ignored those who are poor, and marginalized etc.’

Also those who spoke against such gross violations faced reprisals from government and others. It is clear that there is a wave of nationalism, extremism, and unsustainability all around the world, especially in the Asian region.

Also, Mr. Hemantha Withanage, Executive Director, Centre for Environmental Justice (Colombo) spoke about the human right violations in various environmental projects in Sri Lanka. Apart from this he also highlighted the cases from Asian Development Bank(ADB) and Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB). On ADB, he said only 66 percent of their projects have been successful with social and environmental issues in infrastructure projects. He also shared the information on NGO forum on ADB that supports communities struggling with the ADB and AIIB projects with policy, advocacy and campaign support and assure their voice is heard by the Banks.

Mr. Ruki Fernando from INFORM shared his thoughts and experiences on UN human rights advocacy from Sri Lanka. He shared some significant UN actions related the human rights in Sri Lank.

UN HRC Resolutions in 2012 – 2013

- Expressed Concerns about lack of progress on past abuses



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- Also voiced Concerns about ongoing violations
- Asked Govt to ensure accountability
- Asked HCHR to report back

UN HRC Resolution of 2014:

- Appointed an intl. investigation

Mr. Fernando also talked about the OHCHR and UNHRC resolution for Sri Lanka and concluded that Extension (“Rollover”) of 2015 resolution – to give SL 2 more years to fulfill commitments

- SL to stay on agenda of UNHRC
- Interim report by OHCHR in March 2018
- Final report by OHCHR in March 2019
- Continuous monitoring

Not sure what may happen in / after March 2019 – depends on domestic & international politics.

Output:

The participants were able to link the development paradigm with the human rights. Development is not always for benefits especially for the weaker and marginalized section. Also, there are many issues, that have not been covered in the SDGs and needs attention. The participants were able to learn and explore the core The Core International Human Rights Instruments and their monitoring bodies¹ and UN Human Rights Thematic Special Procedures

One of the important outputs of these discussions were linking each SDG goal with special procedures (human rights)² which has become one of the guiding resources for those interested in linking human rights with SDGs.

‘Participation enables the advancement of all human rights. It plays a crucial role in the promotion of democracy, the rule of law, social inclusion and economic development. It is essential for reducing inequalities and social conflict. It is also important for empowering individuals and groups, and is one of the core elements of human rights-based approaches aimed at eliminating marginalization and discrimination’³.

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CoreInstruments.aspx>

² <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/ListOfIssues.aspx>

³ Human Rights Council, Thirty-ninth session, 10–28 September 2018, Agenda items 2 and 3, Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner



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Goal 16 , Target 16.5 Anti-Corruption

Mr. Rukshana Nanayakkara of Transparency International also shared his presentation on UN SDG goal 16 , target 16.5 on why the issue of (anti) corruption matters and narrated few case studies to the participants for their analysis and debate. He also suggested the list of doable which would work:

- Go beyond international indicators and localise SDGs
- Bring evidence to prove your case and present credible data
- Access to information on school budgets to make the authorities accountable
- Feedback mechanism to question spending decisions.
- Anonymous tip lines for reporting mismanagement and/or corruption
- Public participation in decision making

UN ESCAP Roadmap

Ms. Hitomi Rankine, from the UN ESCAP, Bangkok presented the regional ESCAP roadmap in Asia and Pacific. She provided the following snapshots of SDGs progress in the region in 2017:



Progress summary:

- Regional level: progress made towards SDG1 and SDG3. Only SDG4 will be met at current progress rate
- Inequalities are widening compared to 2000
- Progress made towards SDG9. Limited success for SDG8 and SDG10. Equitable growth must be a priority
- Progress towards SDGs

focusing on environmental stewardship has fallen short

- No progress on SDG15. Protection of forests and natural habitats weakened since 2015
- At current pace of change, SDG13 is unlikely to be met
- Data gaps must be plugged by building new partnerships and embracing new data sources across the region

and the Secretary-General Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development



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- Implementation needs to be scaled up substantially, especially on reducing inequalities, promoting peaceful societies, access to justice and strong institutions
- Progress towards SDGs in the sub regions varies significantly
- Intra-regional disparities highlight the need for policy prioritization at the sub regional level
- Targeted support is needed for nations identified as being farthest behind

Regional Roadmap for implementing Agenda 2030

- Based on extensive dialogue between member states and inputs from civil society organizations and the broader UN community, Asia and the Pacific developed a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda.
- The road map stemmed from decisions mandated at the Second and Third Asia-Pacific Forums on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in 2015 and 2016.
- The road map was adopted in March 2017 - in the Fourth session of the APFSD.
- It is the only inter-governmentally agreed, member-state driven, regional roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda.
- It is intended to be reviewed annually at the APFSD.
- The road map is playing an important role in shaping ESCAP's support.
- However, it needs a strong review mechanism – one which is credible and involves stakeholders in a meaningful way. This is still under development.

She narrated ESCAPs core services as following:

- Policy advocacy, research and analysis (think tank role)
- Normative support and regional dialogue (intergovernmental convening role)
- Technical support, advisory services and capacity building (operational role)

Output

Participants were able to comprehend the role of UN ESCAP as one of the strong regional institutions and its role as policy advocacy, regional dialog and technical support not only to the government bodies but the civil society in the Asia-Pacific region. They were also able to establish a direct connect with the UN ESCAP official to be able to get all news/information related to ESCAP's activities in the region and to be able to connect and participate.

Voluntary National Review and the CSO led processes – Glo-cally

Mr. Uchita De Zoysa made a presentation on Sri Lanka Voluntary People's review (VPR) and the engagement of civil society organizations, academicians and other stakeholder in writing this people's report , which was presented not only during National consultation in Sri Lanka but also during a side event in High Level Political Forum, 2018.



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Dr. Jyotsna Mohan Singh , ADA Coordinator, also made a presentation on Voluntary National review , the role of civil society , CSO reporting and advocacy at the regional and the global level through High Level political Forum. She narrated the experience from the VNR counties of 2016, 2017 and 2018 and civil society participation in the entire process. The voices of civil society is yet to be heard properly at the global level , except the recognition of the UN major groups where the CSOs are affiliated to get their issues addressed. She also spoke about the UN HLPF reforms in 2019, as the first cycle gets completed next year and the strategies to connect larger CSOs locally and take their voices up , globally.

Output

This session enabled the participants to understand the VNR process and the CSO led reporting process at the national level. The participants were also able to understand this whole mechanism at the regional level through participation in Asia -Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (organised by the UN ESCAP) and Asia -Pacific Regional CSO Mechanism (APRCM), Asia Development alliance (ADA) etc. and the global level through High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and UN Major group and other global groups like A4SD, TAP network etc. that specifically works on these issues .

Mainstreaming, Synergy and Nexus (MSN) Approach to SDGs

Mr. Anselmo LEE, ADA Advisor shared MSN Approach

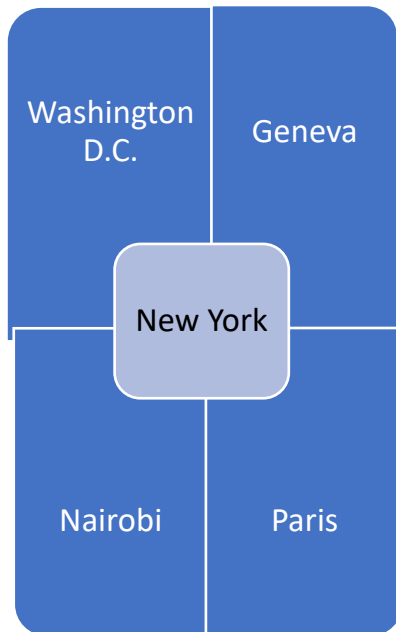
- to mainstream public or cross-cutting values and principles in the implementation process of SDGs through nexus approach for a synergetic impact for the transformation of the current global paradigms that has created global multiple crises.
- as a strategic tool to overcome silo and fragmentation in the SDG implementation by integrating governance (goal 16) and systemic issues (Target 17.13-17.19)

He further shared the follow-up and review at the regional and sub-regional levels , as appropriate, that provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets. If done appropriately. inclusive regional processes will draw on national-level reviews and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level, including at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

He also shared the global governance institutions their purpose and their locations with the participants.



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- New York
 - ✓ UN Headquarters
 - ✓ UNDP
 - ✓ HLPF
- Washington D.C.
 - ✓ World Bank
 - ✓ IMF
- Geneva – UNHRC, OHCHR, ILO, WHO,
- Nairobi – UNEP, UN HABITAT, etc.
- Paris – OECD, UNESCO

He also shared the key international mechanism on SDGs apart from the history of High Level Political Forum and its theme every year and other regional and global events that have taken place since 2016.

Output

Participants learnt about nexus approach :

- ‘transformative and integral approach to SDGs’
- conflict-sensitive,
- gender-sensitive,
- climate-sensitive and
- human rights-based approach
to SDGs by linking SDG 5, 13, 16, and 17

Through this session, the participants understood important regional and global mechanism for advocacy in the field of development , democracy and human rights and who needs to be approach and for what purposes.

The key Highlights and output of the GALA training program



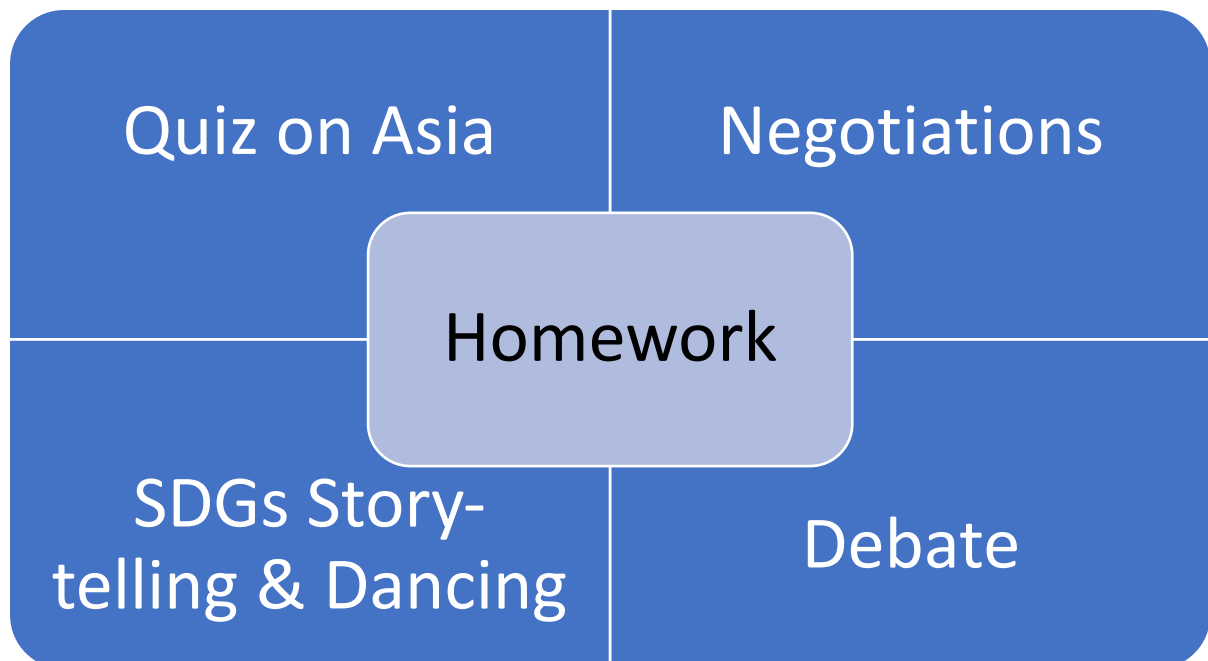
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During this week long training program, the participants did many interactive activities in various groups assigned to them. The homework's and quiz were sent to each participants on weekly basis (two months prior to GALA) in order for them to prepare for the training program and it was also one of the selection (finalisation) criteria . The homework's and the quiz were discussed throughout the training program and groups were awarded on the basis of performances. The debate, presentations and negotiations happened in between the training programs.

Apart from this, the individual participants were also awarded on the basis of few criteria like, gender sensitive person, , environment sensitive etc.

GALA 5 Pedagogies



GALA Homework

To understand the background of the contents of the themes and issues to be addressed during the GALA Asia



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- No 1 UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development /
- No 2 Human Rights and Democracy
- No 3 Peace and Security
- No 4 Economic and Social Development and Environment
- No 5 Gender Equality and Climate Justice

GALA Quiz

To learn about SDGs and Asian realities through facts and figures.

- A. UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs
- B. Geography, History and Culture
- C. Politics, Democracy and Human Rights
- D. International Relations, Peace and Security
- E. Development and Environment

GALA Debate

To understand the contentious issues in-depth through pros-cons debate

3 Topics

1. Is the SDGs really useful and necessary to transform our world (global challenges and crisis)?
2. Is gender distinction socially constructed (or natural)?
3. Can the global warming be solved before 2030?

GALA Negotiations

To understand and learn about to how to address practical challenges in implementing the SDGs from a financial point of view.

- Allocated budget : 1 Million Dollars
- Result : allocation of budget according to SDG goal 1-16
- Negotiation Team is composed of 5 who are
 1. Prime Minister
 2. Minister for People
 3. Minister for Prosperity
 4. Minister for Planet
 5. Minister for Peace and Partnership



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GALA SDG Story telling

1. I am poor, hungry, sick and uneducated so I do not know about gender equality. (SDG 1-5)
2. I drink water to get energy to work hard for industrialization and innovation to reduce inequality. (SDG 6-10)
3. Now I can live in a city but produce and consume too much, creating climate crisis, and destroying lives in ocean and land. (SDG 11-15)
4. In order to transform our world, we need peace and justice / peace, human rights and democracy (PHD) as well as effective means of implementation (Moi) and global partnerships. (SDG 16 and 17)

Immediately after the training program, two GALA alumni from Japan and S. Korea participated in the USCAP sub – regional meeting in Mongolia and many other will be participating in sub-regionals to be held in various sub regions of



Asia and Pacific. The participants are also going to be taking lead roles in their respective countries and CSO led process in VNR in 2019.



The GALA evaluation form is also attached with the document. The participants in general have found the training program very useful, however, a bit lengthy, but full of information's that they have not been told and trained anywhere else in the region. This makes

GALA a very unique training program and ADA proposes to organize such training program at the national level also , especially in the VNR countries like



Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia, timor Leste and other countries where the CSO national platforms are nor very active.

There are also request to organize the training program in the pacific region which will be a step further from ADA mandate , however, it's a good learning opportunity for the CSOs, The ESCAP suggests to take this training program for the government and the UN official which is another feather in ADA's cap.