



▶ EDITORIAL

Number 20 - April 2012



▶ FIESS, RELIESS,
5th RIPESS LAC Continental Meeting



▶ NEWS FROM ASIA

RIPESS

info

EDITORIAL

The third Earth Summit, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, better known as «Rio +20», will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 20th to 22nd 2012. Twenty years after the first Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, it is another attempt of the United Nations to move States and the global community forward on major issues of the twenty-first century transition, including the green economy and the institutional framework of sustainable development. In parallel to the UN conference, civil society organizations and social movements will collectively occupy the Flamengo Park in Rio from June 17th to 23rd 2012 to propose new solidarity lifestyles that reject the commodification of nature and defend the common good.

This "People's Summit" will take the form of self-managed discussion groups around a Permanent Assembly of Peoples in a space designed for organizations and social movements to present themselves and interact with civil society experiences and specific projects. RIPESS has formally expressed its support for the People's Summit and its goals through the Fórum Brasileiro de Economia Solidária that sits on the steering committee for the Summit.

The RIPESS intercontinental Board members will be present at the Peoples' Summit to present SSE actions for sustainable development on every continent. Steps have also been undertaken to accredit members to attend the official UN conference in order for them to also convey their experience in this context. Moreover, 5th RIPESS LAC Continental Meeting will take advantage of the presence of a large number of its members to hold a 5th RIPESS LAC Continental Meeting before the Peoples' Summit, from June 9th to 13th. Ben Quiñones, incoming intercontinental Executive Coordinator of RIPESS, will attend the inauguration of the continental meeting. It is also planned that Mr. Quiñones and Mr. Jayasooria, the two Asian representatives on the Board of RIPESS intercontinental, will present the state of SSE experiences in Asia during this meeting.



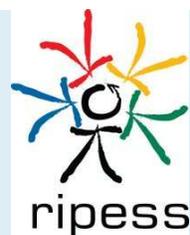


Finally, the members RIPESS intercontinental Board will meet following the People's Summit, on June 23rd and 24th in Rio.

At this meeting, the RIPESS intercontinental executive coordination will be transferred to Ben Quiñones in Asia.

It will also be an opportunity to make strategic decisions on several issues, including the planning of the Fifth International Meeting of Globalization of Solidarity to be held in Manila in October 2013 and the priority actions to be carried out in the coming year.

Nancy Neamtan
RIPESS Board Member



Board Council

RIPESS LATIN AMERICA & CARRIBEAN

Ana Leighton

Chile

Luis Eduardo Salcedo

Colombie

RIPESS ASIA

Ben Quiñones Jr. PhD

Philippines

Denison Jayasooria

Malaisie

RIPESS OCEANIA

David Thompson

Australia

RIPESS AFRICA

Cherkaoui Abdeljalil

Maroc

Madani Koumaré

Mali

RIPESS EUROPE

Eric Lavillunière

Luxembourg

RIPESS NORTH AMERICA

Emily Kawano

United States

Nancy Neamtan

Canada





The International Forum on the Social and Solidarity Economy (FIESS) was held in Montreal, from October 17 to 20, 2011. The central theme was «The development of public policy in favour of the social and solidarity economy (SSE)». The Forum, organised by the *Chantier de l'économie sociale* in partnership with the government of Quebec and the city of Montreal was supported by many national and international organisations, amongst which the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy (RIPESS). Proof that the social and solidarity economy is gaining strength all over the world, the forum brought together over 1,600 participants from 62 countries and representatives of international bodies such as the International Labour Organisation, the OECD, the International Trade Union Confederation, the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank. More than 150 examples of SSE from various countries were presented, thereby highlighting the diversity and importance of social economy initiatives throughout the world and the public policies and programs that enable them. Studies jointly produced by researchers and practitioners in the field and overseen by an international scientific committee helped to fuel debates as did also several activities organized around the event that focused on certain aspects and realities of the SSE. Presentations made during the FIESS, videos of speeches made in the plenary sessions and a general report on the forum can be viewed here: <http://reliess.org/en/fiess2011/>

The primary objective of the FIESS was to bring together actors the social and solidarity economy of different countries of the North and the South and their partners. This objective was achieved since at the forum itself, and in the following months, numerous new partnerships have emerged between organizations of the social and solidarity economy of several countries. More than a simple symposium, the forum managed to mobilize participants and give new impetus to the SSE. Nevertheless, many challenges still lie ahead: how can we ensure a future for the SSE by involving and mobilizing youth through education, training field actors, and producing relevant and useful research for practitioners? How can increased visibility be given to local, regional, national and international networks being built and can their development be encouraged? How can trade be promoted between actors and networks of social and solidarity economy? These challenges were of particular interest for the RIPESS Board of directors who were present at the forum to present

the reality of the SEE in their respective continents.

The Board of Directors also took the opportunity to meet on the margins of the FIESS. They were able to advance on several intercontinental items on the agenda, including, among others, the SSE mapping initiative. For 2012, it was decided to encourage mobilization for the Rio +20 meeting and highlight the International Year of Cooperatives on all continents. Collaborations with various international organizations were also explored.

In the wake of the FIESS, a reference and liaison center has been created at the *Chantier de l'économie sociale*. This center, the RELIESS, is mandated to disseminate the contents of the forum and all the new developments in public policies that enable the social and solidarity economy.

«*The Chantier has plowed the field, but we are all collectively responsible for building on what we sow and harvesting it in our own way*». Nancy Neamtan.

The FIESS has added impetus to the world of the social and solidarity economy; it now remains for all of us to take the necessary steps to further its development.

For more information : info@ripest.org



What is the RELIESS?

Following the successful experience of the FIESS, and in order to take advantage of all of the information presented and gathered there on the state of the SSE throughout the world, the *Chantier de l'économie sociale* has created an International Center on Public Policies in Favour of the Social and Solidarity Economy: the RELIESS.

The RELIESS' mission is to disseminate information on public policies, namely on the collaborations between civil society and the public sector that have enabled the development of innovative experiences in the social and solidarity economy internationally. It also encourages the international networking of actors working in favour of the social economy within civil society as well as within public administrations.

For more information: www.reliess.org/en/

Fifth Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean on Solidarity Economy and Fair Trade

The Fifth Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean on Solidarity Economy and Fair Trade will take place from June 11th to the 14th in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. The meeting will be a space where different expressions of the social and solidarity economy and fair trade in Latin America and the Caribbean will meet.

The objective will be to promote an exchange of proposals that can contribute to reinforcing solidarity dialogues and networks. Given the calendar of events planned for 2012, it was also deemed essential that the solidarity economy movement be able to assert its position and present its proposals in the discussions that will take place in Rio de Janeiro after the meeting. The People's Summit during Rio+20 will be another moment for sharing information and the solidarity economy must show how to progress towards a fairer and more sustainable economy.

Moreover, the Fifth Meeting will be a moment during which the social base of the social and solidarity economy in Latin America and the Caribbean will bring their contributions in order to help bring about proposals for a fairer economy during the political debates taking place during Rio+20 and the People's Summit.

For more information on the meeting, visit <http://cirandas.net/v-encontro-latinoamericano-de-economia-solidaria-e-comercio-justo/v-encontro-latinoamericano-de-economia-solidaria-e-comercio-justo>.

News from Asia

COMMACT Conference, Kochi, Kerala, March 2-4, 2012

Sixty participants, mostly from India, Malaysia and Nepal met to discuss **«New directions and connections for the solidarity economy and people-centred development»**

The meeting was organized by COMMACT - The Common Wealth Network for People-Centred Development. This network, originally a British Commonwealth organization, met for the first time in Goa, India in 1988. Since then, the network meets every 2 to 4 years. COMMACT is legally incorporated in Australia and is chaired by David Thompson from Jobs Australia. David Thompson is also a member of the board of the International Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS). Denison Jayasooria, also member of the Board of RIPESS for Asia also took part.

Interventions in plenary and in workshops, deepened understanding of major topics such solidarity economy and the challenges of networking. The participants clearly expressed their will to continue mutual strengthening by networking and information exchange.

Whereas the majority of COMMACT members are in Asia, the organization is also a member of the Asian Solidarity Economy Coalition (ASEC), the continental network of RIPESS. Thus, there is a will to work together in Asia and for the next international RIPESS meeting in 2013.

III ASIAN SOLIDARITY ECONOMY FORUM - ASEF KL 2011, Oct 31, 2011 to Nov 2, 2011

After a first Forum in Manila in 2007 and a second Forum in Tokyo in 2009, 350 participants, from 33 different countries, including 17 Asian countries met in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia for the III Asian Solidarity Economy Forum. The theme of the Forum was **Social Enterprise as a Vehicle for Socio-economic Transformation of Communities**.

During the three day meeting, more than a hundred participants spoke in plenary or workshop sessions. The workshop program was very rich, covering topics such as microfinance and social finance, fair trade, community development and sustainable development. The question of public policy and societal issues in the context of global crises in the dominant system were debated.

The Asian Forum was an opportunity to take a big step forward in structuring the Asian social solidarity economy network. Asian organizations present in Kuala Lumpur formally decided to establish, as RIPESS Asia, Asian Solidarity Economy Coalition (ASEC). This new formation consists mainly of regional organisations in different sectors such as fair trade, peasant's organizations and microfinance.

The spokesperson of the organising committee of the Forum, Denison Jayasooria, proposed that Asian participants focus their efforts over the next year on building national networks. It was also decided to work on clarifying the various concepts present in Asia (social economy, social enterprise, social entrepreneurship, solidarity economy, etc.), through collaboration of researchers from various Asian countries.

The organizing efforts at the country level are seen as an important step in preparing a major event, since the forum was the occasion to announce the formation of the Philippine National Organizing Committee the 5th RIPESS Meeting for Globalization of Solidarity in Manila in October 2013.



RIPESS

<http://www.ripess.org/intercontinental.html>

RIPESS North America

<http://ripessna.wordpress.com/>

RIPESS Latin America & Caribbean

<http://www.ripesslac.net/home.php>

Asian Solidarity Economy Coalition

<http://aa4se.com/>

RIPESS Europe

<http://www.ripesseu.net/>

RIPESS INFO is produced under the political responsibility of the RIPESS Coordinator. It is produced on a regular basis thanks to the cooperation of collaborators from different continents.

Production Team:

Ethel Côté and Yvon Poirier Canadian Community Economic Development Network, Canada

Maude Brossard & Béatrice Alain from Chantier de l'économie sociale, Québec.

To subscribe, to comment, or to submit an article:

info@ripess.org



RIPESS FACEBOOK:

<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/p.php?gid=111129021132&v=wall>