Debunking False Solutions and Neocolonial Plunder: Towards a People-Centred and Gender-Just Southeast Asia

Organizers

IBON International, ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, HOME Alliance

Background and Context

For centuries, Southeast Asian countries have been integrated into the global economy as suppliers of raw materials and sites of cheap labour, while control over technology, finance, and higher-value production remains in Northern economies. Amid the worsening polycrisis – climate, environment, human rights - this dynamic is reinforced through the appropriation of peoples' demands for a transition away from fossil-based and extractive economic systems to advance a vision of transition that opens new frontiers for extraction and accumulation.

This appropriation is unfolding within intensifying geopolitical competition, mainly motivated by the United States (US) and its allies' assertion of their hegemony over the global economic order amid China's dominant position in the processing and manufacturing of many transition-related resources. To preserve their economic and military advantage, the US and other major Northern economies are scrambling to consolidate control over strategic supply chains through aggressive trade and investment policies, particularly around minerals deemed "critical" to renewable energy, digital infrastructures, and advanced weapons systems.

Initiatives such as the U.S.-led Pax Silica framework, alongside other emerging trade and industrial policies linked to the green transition, demonstrate how geopolitical competition is reshaping patterns of investment, extraction, and industrialisation across Southeast Asia. False, illusionary technofixes like geoengineering, which are often tested and deployed in Indigenous lands or in Global South territories, are heavily funded by the Global North through public and private funding streams. The main goal of these dangerous initiatives and technological proposals is to maintain the status quo and keep doing business-as-usual.

The intensification of climate change has resulted in destructive weather conditions. Despite that, Southeast Asia remains to be a strategic hub for global supply chains for corporate-led industrialisation, a seemingly critical role facilitating the economic development of ASEAN member states. Recent developments within international climate negotiations illustrate the growing convergence of climate policy and trade governance and strengthening push for market mechanisms that diverts from real solutions and fossil fuel phaseout. This, however, will only perpetuate and exacerbate the climate emergency, social injustice, environmental and human rights violation in the form of ecosystems degradation, Indigenous and grassroot community displacement, destruction of ancestral domains and protected areas, threat to security of the LGBTQIA+, women and children, among others. The Northern economic framework and false solutions will drive the dependence on extractivism, further destabilise our Earth systems and geopardise the current and future generation's right to a sound life and safe planet.

Through the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment, the ASEAN recognises the right of both the present and future generations, and calls on governments and all stakeholders to collaborate in undertaking measures to address adverse negative impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, and human-induced crises on the environment. As the ASEAN crafts a Regional Action Plan (RPA) for this declaration, stakeholders

need to come together and ensure that the RPA works for and serve the Southeast Asian people and does not become another document only for show.

With the ASEAN Summit coming up this November, exposing and resisting the large-scale extraction of transition minerals, false climate solutions, injustices and the violation of rights across Southeast Asia is especially relevant. There remains an urgent need to deepen cross-movement and cross-sectoral analysis and solidarity in order to sharpen collective strategies and action against interconnected systems of exploitation. This convergence space thus seeks to facilitate knowledge sharing and coordinate advocacy towards a more coherent articulation of peoples' demands to uphold environmental and human rights, and economic and climate justice.

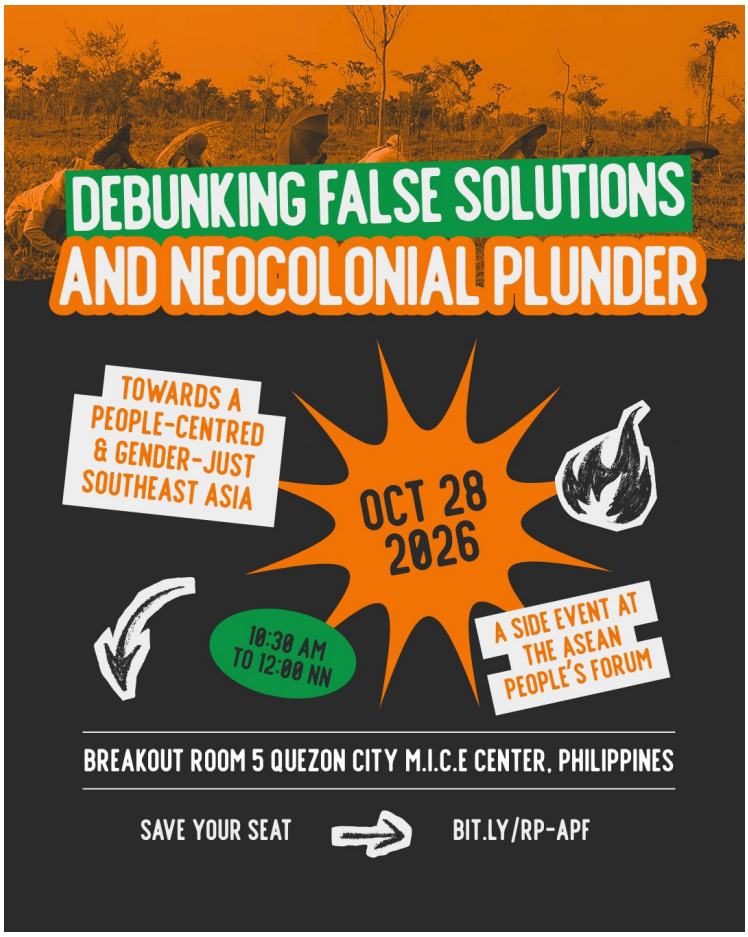
Objectives

1. Unpack the US-led global scramble for transition minerals and expose how the US-led mineral partnerships are being used to advance geopolitical and militaristic interests under the guise of supply chain resilience/security, and surface the implications of these developments for Southeast Asia, with particular focus on the countries that are main producers of nickel for US, such as the Philippines and Indonesia;
2. Examine multiple realities, challenges, and threats to the environment and climate, and their impact on LGBTQIA+ lives in Southeast Asia while fostering a shared understanding and commitment towards a Southeast Asian queer and feminist framework in advancing environmental and climate justice;
3. Crystallize the discourse on geoengineering as closely linked and relevant to climate justice, environmental rights, human rights, Indigenous rights, socioeconomic justice, peace and security, gender rights, and intergenerational justice, among others, and raise critical awareness on the push of this Global North agenda on the Global South, including Southeast Asia;

Programme

This convergence space will be held from 10:30am - 12:00pm PST on 28 October 2026, in hybrid format. The physical component of the event will be determined after ironing out further details, but the online component will be via Zoom platform. The event will also be livestreamed on IBON International's Facebook page.

TIME	ACTIVITY	Description
10:30 am	Opening and Introduction	Overview and introduction of organizers and speakers
10:35 am	Presentations by IBON International	The Push for Global North Agenda in Southeast Asia Context setting and lived experience
10:45 am	Presentation by Trend asia	Regional Cases of extractivist trade deals for transition minerals in Southeast Asia and their implications
10:55 am	Presentation by Hands Off Mother Earth (HOME) Alliance	Geoengineering in Southeast Asia: Drivers, Real-world Developments and Implications by HOME Alliance
11:05 am	Presentation by Arus Pelangi	The role of LGBTQIA+ persons and allied stakeholders in interrogating current development frameworks and approaches, and demanding just and rights-based approaches to the polycrisis
11:15 am	ASEAN SOGIE Caucus	Launching of the ASC Manifesto
11:20 am	Open Forum	Open discussion with participants
11:45 am	Closing	Wrap up and closing


DEBUNKING FALSE SOLUTIONS
AND NEOCOLONIAL PLUNDER
TOWARDS A PEOPLE-CENTRED & GENDER-JUST SOUTHEAST ASIA
OCT 28 2026
10:30 AM TO 12:00 NN
A SIDE EVENT AT THE ASEAN PEOPLE'S FORUM
BREAKOUT ROOM 5 QUEZON CITY M.I.C.E CENTER, PHILIPPINES
SAVE YOUR SEAT
BIT.LY/RP-APF


THE SPEAKERS
IVAN ENRILE, IBON INTERNATIONAL
THE PUSH FOR GLOBAL NORTH AGENDA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
HERDANANG AHMAD FAUZAN, TREND ASIA
EXTRACTIVIST TRADE DEALS FOR TRANSITION MINERALS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
NIKI MIRANDA-MARTINEZ, HOME ALLIANCE
GEOENGINEERING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
SAVE YOUR SEAT
BIT.LY/RP-APF


THE SPEAKERS
AYUN K., ARUS PELANGI
THE ROLE OF LGBTQIA+ PERSONS AND ALLIED STAKEHOLDERS IN INTERROGATING CURRENT DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS AND APPROACHES
WIDIA PRIMASTIKA, TREND ASIA
MODERATOR
ORGANIZED BY
ASEAN SOGIE CAUCUS
IBON INTERNATIONAL
HOME HANDS OFF MOTHER EARTH ALLIANCE
ASEAN Civil Society Conference People's Forum