

INDIGENOUS WOMEN RISING

Understanding the leadership of women in
Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities'
struggle for social change and self-determination

KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE
INVITATION



LINK



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BY VOICE

FEBRUARY
5-7 2019
BAGUIO CITY
PHILIPPINES



Dear friends and partners,

Voice¹ is an innovative grant facility to support the most marginalised and discriminated groups in their efforts to exert influence in accessing productive and social services and political participation.

Voice is delighted to invite you to the Knowledge Exchange on the **Leadership of women in Indigenous Peoples' and Ethnic Minorities' struggle for social change and self-determination**, taking place in Baguio City, Philippines, 4 to 8 February, 2019. This is the first in a series of Knowledge Exchanges Voice is hosting. They provide a unique opportunity to bring together grantees, regional or global stakeholders, knowledge institutes, Oxfam/Hivos and Voice, to exchange and deepen our knowledge and understanding on a number of issues that surface in the light of Voice grant making and linking and learning.

Based on the work of a number of Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Ethnic Minorities organisations around land rights, the right to identity and self-determination, and the protection of the environment, a conversation started within Voice about the role of women in Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities movements, their participation in the leadership and their motivation to achieve social change.

1. What makes women persist in the struggle?

We would like to look at this question based on the experiences of the people in the room, mostly the members of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities organisations. Some sub-questions that have come up:

Is the struggle the same for the women as for the men in the organisations? If not, what makes it different? What made it possible for women to become leaders in certain groups or organizations and what made it impossible for others?

2. Is a broader change in gender roles and inequality important in this?

Can we speak of a clash between fighting for individual rights (e.g. gender equality agenda, women's (land) rights) and the fight for collective rights (right to identity, environment, community lands e.g.). How do women position themselves? Are there changes in the way men acknowledge or recognize the role of women in the movement?



1 An initiative from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Voice is a partnership between Oxfam Novib and Hivos. For more information please visit www.voice.global

Reflecting on some ethnic groups in Kenya, what has changed now that the land act, in terms of property ownership and sharing, permits ownership by men but also by women? To what degree has the process around it given the women authority to claim? Has the progressive legislation made it possible for women to engage more and come up into the space of leadership, decision making and advocacy around land rights? And to include a gender equality agenda?

We would like to understand the narrative behind this in the words of the women living it. To better understand the dynamics and the changing context, and the interaction between women and men. What does this mean for the inclusiveness of the Indigenous Peoples' agenda?

3. Is the leadership role of indigenous women being recognised by the indigenous communities themselves?

Although women are more visible in the Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities movement, does this change their position in the community? Are they able to occupy certain positions in the community?

4. Why are there few Kenyan / Ugandan Indigenous women represented at policy / high level advocacy and encounters? What makes it different from the Asian IP movement?

Based on the sharing and learning we will identify commonalities and differences in the organising and influencing by Asian and African Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities.

5. What are the concrete steps to support women indigenous leaders in their double fight?

This question will cut across all discussions/sessions and will serve as the key question for the integration session on the last day.

DAY 1

MONDAY FEBRUARY 4 - ARRIVAL TO THE VENUE

Departure to Baguio, 10:00 AM

DAY 2

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5

AM Introductions

Lunch

PM Learning Session A & B

Learning Questions:

1. What makes women persist in the struggle?
2. Is a broader change in gender roles and inequality important in this?

Welcome Dinner

DAY 3

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6

AM-PM Community Visit, Learning Session C

Learning Question:

Is the leadership role of indigenous women being recognised by the indigenous communities themselves?

DAY 4

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7

AM Learning Session D

Learning Question:

Why are there few Kenyan / Ugandan Indigenous women represented at policy / high level advocacy and encounters? What makes it different from the Asian IP movement?

Lunch

PM Integration and Closing

Learning Question:

What are the concrete steps to support women indigenous leaders in their double fight?

Socials night

DAY 5

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8 - DEPARTURE TO MANILA

Departure to Manila, 6:00 AM