

ACCA PROGRAM UPDATE : FIGURES, REPORTS, PLANS, MEETINGS



The Asian Coalition for Community Action (ACCA) Program has now completed its fifth year. The program has supported activities in 215 cities, in 19 countries. This very wide reach in such a short period of time has been a kind of region-wide experiment, and the experiment has proved that urban poor communities and their development partners in all these (and other) cities are ready to address citywide problems and citywide development together. The program has demonstrated a new kind of development intervention, for the more open, democratic world we now live in, in which the poor have the freedom to decide things and manage their own development. In this model, instead of being seen as the problem or the passive recipients of somebody else's idea of what they need, the poor themselves become the doers and the deliverers of solutions to the huge problems of urban poverty, land and housing in Asian cities.

ACCA PROGRAM UPDATE : (Cumulative figures, as of November, 2014)

- **ACCA-supported citywide upgrading activities in 215 cities / towns / districts**, in 19 Asian countries
- **146 big housing projects either finished or well underway** (Total big project budget approved: US\$ 5.2 million - which includes 12 projects from the ACCA regional revolving loan fund)
- **2,139 small upgrading projects either completed or in process** (Total small project budget approved US\$ 2.9 million)
- **US\$ 84.2 million worth of land, infrastructure and cash has been leveraged from governments** in these big housing projects and small upgrading projects, with the ACCA budget accounting for only 5% of the total project values.
- **Community savings groups in 206 ACCA cities**, with 399,686 savers and a total of US\$ 33.9 million in collective savings.
- **Citywide surveys and information in 183 cities.**
- **Community Networks in all 215 of the ACCA cities.**
- **City-based community development funds (CDFs) active in 136 cities**, with a total capital of US\$ 21.6 million, of which only 18% came from ACCA, and the rest was mobilized from communities, local governments and other sources.
- **30 Community-driven disaster rehabilitation projects in 10 countries**
- **26 "Understanding Asian Cities" projects in 10 countries.**
- **National surveys in 9 countries, finished or in process**

A detailed fifth yearly report on the ACCA Program's implementation, called "215 Cities in Asia," is now being printed and can be downloaded from the ACHR website. Here are a few figures from the report.

WHAT NEXT? The ACCA Program is coming to an end at a time when there are some changes coming about in the ACHR secretariat in Bangkok, and at a time when it seems increasingly difficult to get funding support to continue the ACCA process in the same way and at the same region-wide scale (although you can be sure your friends in Bangkok continue to explore all sorts of funding possibilities and to send off proposals and concept notes by the kilo - with some success!). So the time has clearly come for a regional pow-wow to discuss the next steps for ACCA and ACHR, and for the process of coordinating this regional process which has been so active for the past 25 years.

ACHR REGIONAL MEETING in BANGKOK, JANUARY 23-25: The dates have now been set for a modest-sized ACHR regional gathering, where the discussion agenda will include: the ACCA program and performance, the new SELAVIP program, the Community Architects Network (CAN), other regional activities, the coordination process of the ACHR secretariat in Bangkok and future directions for the coalition overall. Maurice and Minh Chau will be in touch this week about the details and the logistics.

215 Cities in Asia
FIFTH YEARLY REPORT OF THE ASIAN COALITION FOR COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM - NOVEMBER 2014

More proof that citywide slum upgrading is possible, and works

ACCA is a regional program of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights that is building a community upgrading process in Asian cities which is:

- implemented by people
- based on concrete action
- driven by real needs
- city wide in its scale
- strategic in its planning
- done in partnership
- aiming at structural change