A Better World: The Global Council as Instrument of Inclusion

The Philippines is ranked as one of the world’s most mineralized country. It is also ranked as one of the most vulnerable from the effects of climate change. This unique situation gives rise to the need for progressive dialogue with those whose enterprises have direct bearing on the reality and life of my people and in Southeast Asia.

While it is true that the Philippines as a democracy had made significant steps to advance inclusive protocols and lodge it in systems of governance, the struggle to keep these spaces of participation open remains. Of particular interest is the global trend (especially here in Southeast Asia) of widening business presence especially in the area of minerals and fossil fuel utilization and how this has affected local policy impacting communities that are vulnerable and are often marginalized.

A wide gap between communal realities and experiences and the claim for huge benefits from natural resource utilization exist. Without verifiable data and constant authentication of information through dialectics and research, informed decisions by both governments and communities cannot be attained.

PWYP’s global vision, that of creating a world where verified information determines actions, exemplifies the hope of poor but mineralized countries, particularly my own, to challenge the current way of doing things in order to push to the fore, into the international limelight the hopes of neglected communities into being recognized as integral part of development whose right to self-determination cannot be abridged.

In this context, I own as my mission to carry a humble representation for these communities so that while Southeast Asia emerges to be a potential for mineral industry, the governance of natural resource utilization remains to be an open space wherein those who lay on the margins are better able to participate in the shaping of their own future and whose contribution in the building of their country is recognized and valued. Perhaps this is my humble contribution for a quest for a better world.