



**INTEGRATING KNOWLEDGE  
FOR SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**Proceedings**

24-25 October 2018  
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand











**Bangkok Forum 2018: Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability**  
Proceedings

Editorial copyright © 2018 Chulalongkorn University

Individual speeches, abstracts, and papers copyright © 2018 Individual authors

First published in December 2018 by Chulalongkorn University  
254 Phayathai Road, Pathum Wan District  
Bangkok 10330 Thailand

**Editorial Advisors**

Pirongrong Ramasoota, Project Director, Bangkok Forum

Surichai Wun'Gaeo, Chair, Academic Sub-committee, Bangkok Forum

**Editorial and Publication Coordination**

Michiko Yoshida, Narumol Aphinives

**Copy Editing**

Jackie Imamura

**Bangkok Forum Logo**

Kanjanapa Watthanatam

**Photographs**

Chulalongkorn University Communication Center

**Design and Layout**

Pod Ongtaweekiat

**Printed by**

Chulalongkorn University Printing House, Bangkok, Thailand



## CONTENTS

<b>ABOUT THE PUBLICATION</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>BANGKOK FORUM 2018 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>THE CONTRIBUTORS</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>I. EXECUTIVE REPORT</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>II. OPENING ADDRESS</b>	
Guest of Honor: Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn	<b>55</b>
<b>III. WELCOME ADDRESSES</b>	
• President of Chulalongkorn University	<b>57</b>
• President of Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies	<b>58</b>
<b>IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES</b>	
• Keynote Speech	<b>60</b>
Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn	
• Future Governance for Sustainable Asia	<b>64</b>
Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi	
• Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable ASEAN	<b>72</b>
Dr. Noeleen Heyzer	
• The Challenges of SDGs in the Asia Pacific Region	<b>78</b>
Dr. Hongjoo Hahm	
• Transformative Green Paradigm: An Imperative	<b>84</b>
Professor Dr. Nay Htun	
<b>V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS</b>	
<b>PLENARY SESSION I:</b>	
Tackling Inequality with Enabling Knowledge in Asian Development	<b>94</b>
Session brief: Dr. Susan Vize	
<b>ABSTRACTS:</b>	
1. Inequality and Sustainability: Three Riddles	<b>95</b>
Professor Dr. Pasuk Phongpaichit	
2. Challenge to Professionalism: Citizen Deliberation in the Decision-making	<b>95</b>
Process around Nuclear Power Policy in Korea	
Professor SeeJae Lee	
3. Circular Economy: The Future We Create	<b>95</b>
Mr. Sakchai Patiparnprechavud	



## CONTENTS

### PLENARY SESSION II:

Challenges of Social Justice in Asia	96
Session brief: Associate Professor Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak	

### ABSTRACTS:

1. The Importance of Social Value in the Age of Sustainability: The Experience of Korea	96
Professor Dr. Jaeyeol Yee	
2. People-Oriented Justice Reform	97
Dr. Suntariya Muanpawong	
3. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Border Communities	98
Dr. Cynthia Maung	
4. Confronting the Archetypes of Singularity, Fear, and Intolerance	99
Professor Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed	

### PLENARY SESSION III:

University and Public Engagement: Transgressive Learning and Action	100
Session brief: Dr. Bharat Dahiya	

### ABSTRACTS:

1. The Zones of Proximal Development for Universities and Civil Society: Lessons Learnt from the Fukushima Radiation Disaster	101
Ms. Mariko Komatsu	
2. Empowering Generations of Young Leaders through Theory, Practice and Participation	101
Mr. Khamphoui Saythalat	
3. Language Revitalization as a Case of University-Community Knowledge Co-creation	102
Dr. Toshiyuki Doi	
4. City as a Classroom: Urban Citizenship, Social Space, and Pedagogic Experiences from Indonesian Cities	102
Mr. Ahmad Rifai	

### PLENARY SESSION IV:

Peddling Inequality to Social Sustainability in ASEAN	103
Session brief: Dr. Thorn Pitidol	

### ABSTRACTS:

1. Both Worse and Better than It Seems: From Inequality Data to Inequality Experiences	103
Professor Dr. Jonathan Rigg	
2. Welfare State-building in Europe and East Asia: Political Economy Lessons	103
Associate Professor Dr. Veerayooth Kanchoochat	
3. Who are the Furthest Behind in Asia and the Pacific?	104
Measuring Inequality of Opportunity	
Ms. Ermina Sokou	
4. Regional Community Building in Southeast Asia:	104
The Need to Pursue Social Sustainability and Social Innovation	
Dr. Chheang Vannarith	



### PARALLEL SESSION 1 (PS1):

Crises of Sustainability in ASEAN: Urgent Proposals for Creative Institutionalization **105**  
Session brief: Mr. Theodore Mayer

#### ABSTRACTS:

1. Can Study Trips Save Asia?: A Case Study of the SASS “In Search of” Study Trips **105**  
Associate Professor Dr. Yeoh Seng-Guan
2. How Innovations in the Higher Learning Classroom Can Help Transform the Growing **106**  
Crises of Climate Change and Social Inequality in Asia: A Concrete Proposal  
Mr. Theodore Mayer
3. Going Beyond Hegemonic Stories and Silos: Towards a Transdisciplinary School of **106**  
New Humanities and Social Sciences  
Dr. M. Nadarajah (Nat)

### PARALLEL SESSION 2 (PS2):

Development of a Framework for the Local Implementation of **107**  
the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)  
Session brief: Professor Dr. Mario Tabucanon

#### ABSTRACTS:

1. Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals: **108**  
The Case of a Community in Toyooka, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan  
Professor Dr. Norichika Kanie
2. Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of a Community in **108**  
Nan Province, Thailand  
Dr. Sayamol Charoenratana
3. Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of a Community in **109**  
Quezon City, the Philippines  
Professor Dr. Nestor Castro
4. Framework for Local Implementation of SDGs: Case Study of Delhi, India **109**  
Associate Professor Dr. Smriti Das

### PARALLEL SESSION 3 (PS3):

Ecological Crisis, Knowledge Imbalances and Innovation Strategy **110**  
Session brief: Mr. Boonthan T. Verawongse

#### ABSTRACTS:

1. Mitigating Urban Flooding Impacts: Waste Management Service Sector **111**  
Associate Professor Dr. Chanathip Pharino
2. Municipal Waste Management—Seeking the Balance between Efficiency and Participation **112**  
Associate Professor Dr. Kohei Watanabe
3. Citizen Science and Its Role as a Participatory Tool in Achieving SDGs **112**  
(Under Threats of the Uncontrolled Movement of Toxic Waste)  
Ms. Penchom Saetang



## CONTENTS

### PARALLEL SESSION 4 (PS4):

Human Capital Social Sustainability in the Context of Aging Asian Society	113
Session brief: Associate Professor Dr. Vipan Prachuabmoh	

### ABSTRACTS:

1. Gender and Socio-Economic Gaps in Educational Attainment and the Labor Market	113
Professor Gavin Jones	
2. Productive Aging and Social Sustainability: Prospects, Opportunities and Challenges	113
Dr. Elke Loichinger	
3. Gender Equality in Education and Employment in Korea	114
Dr. Yoon-Jeong Shin	

### PARALLEL SESSION 5 (PS5):

The Heartware of Sustainability—Faith, Spirituality, and Local Wisdom	114
Session brief: Dr. Mochamad Indrawan	

### ABSTRACTS:

1. Right Mindset in Development: Sufficiency Economy Philosophy	115
Dr. Priyanut Dharmapiya	
2. Sustainability through Community Collaboration: Linking Rural Knowledge and Wisdom to Urban Challenges	116
Ms. Supa Yaimuang	
3. Making Spirituality Work for Sustainability: Transformative Learning of the People of the Forest Margins	116
Dr. Mochamad Indrawan	
4. With and Beyond Sustainable Development: Towards New Planetary Heartworks and the Calling of Evolutionary Flourishing	117
Professor Ananta Kumar Giri	

### PARALLEL SESSION 6 (PS6):

The Role of Think Tanks as Driving Force for a More Sustainable Asia	118
Session brief: Professor Jin Guangyao	

### ABSTRACTS:

1. Exploring a Practical Model of the Think Tank in the University	118
Associate Professor Yi Shen	
2. Examining the Denuclearization Process of the Korean Peninsula from Perspective of Peaceful Development	118
Associate Professor Li Chun Fu	
3. The Characteristics of China's University Think Tanks and the Practical Path in Promoting Social Sustainable Development	119
Ms. Zhu Hongrui	

### YOUTHQUAKE PANEL

119

Session summary: Dr. Carl Middleton  
Chula YouthQuake Film: Dr. Pasicha Chaikaew and Dr. Supawan Visetnoi



## **VI. FULL PAPERS**

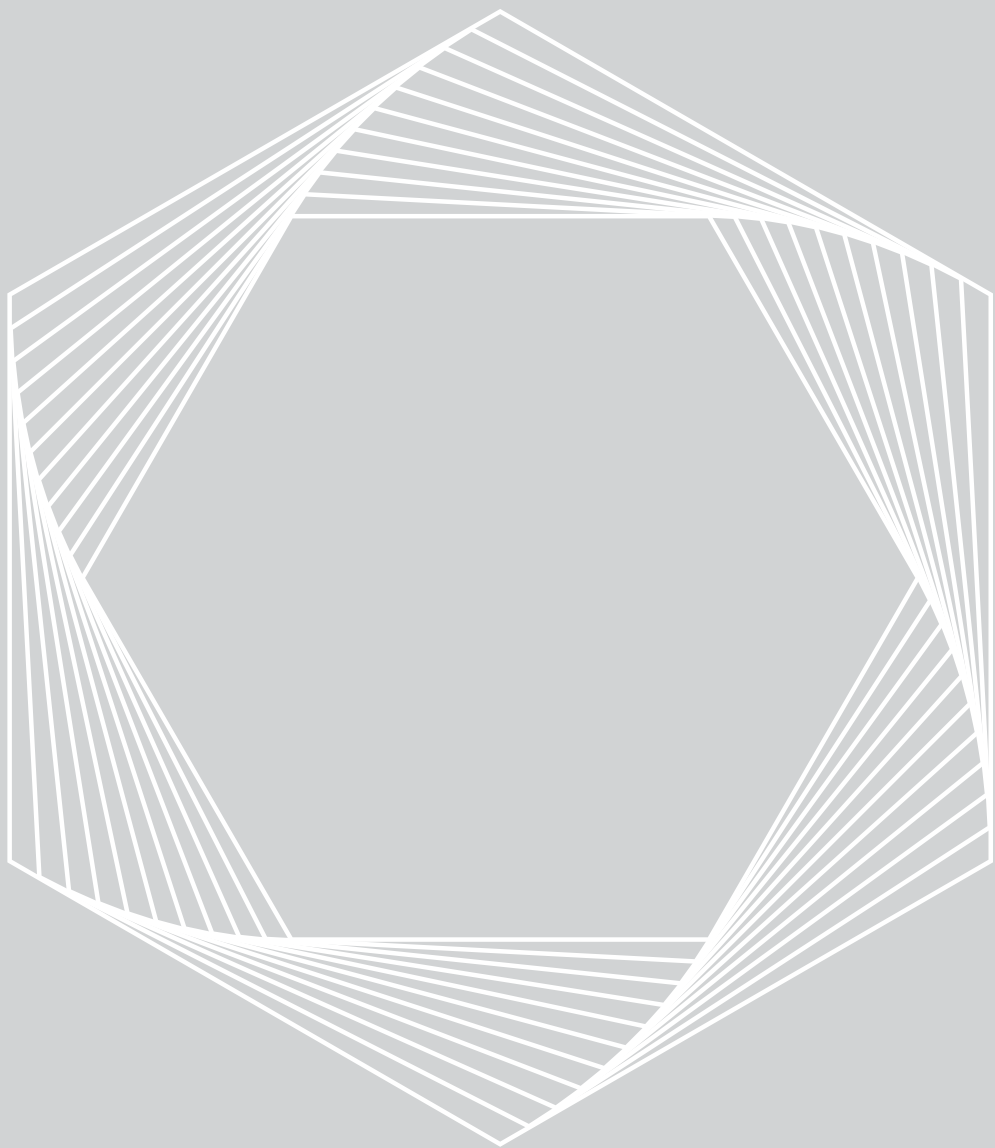
- |                                                                                                                                                                 |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Inequality and Sustainability: Three Riddles<br>Professor Dr. Pasuk Phongpaichit                                                                             | <b>122</b> |
| 2. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Right for Border Communities in South Eastern Myanmar<br>Dr. Cynthia Maung, Ms. Lisa Houston and Ms. Narumoon Maungjamrad | <b>130</b> |

## **VII. BANGKOK FORUM 2018 PROGRAM** **138**

## **VIII. FUNDING PARTNERS** **147**

## **IX. SECRETARIAT AND CONTACT** **149**







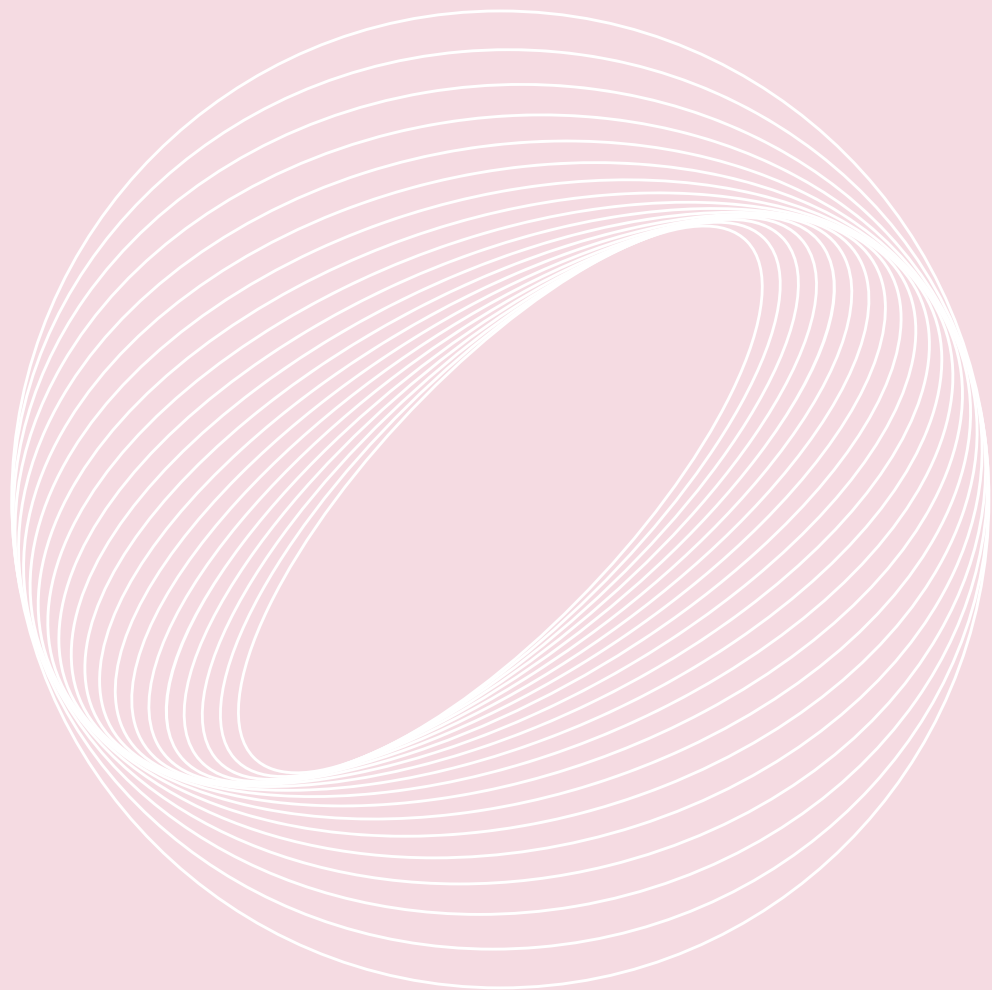
## ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

Bangkok Forum 2018: Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability is a compilation of contributions made for the Bangkok Forum 2018 held during October 24-25, 2018 at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. These proceedings reflect the breadth of topics presented at the Forum and include a few additional contributed papers that subsequently were developed by the participants. A broad range of experience was represented in the Forum, including that of scholars, public intellectuals, policy makers, civil society groups, community-based associations, government entities, academic institutions, corporate entities, development partners, and foundations.

The Bangkok Forum is an integrative knowledge platform, a new initiative launched in 2018 by Chulalongkorn University with support from the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS). The Forum addresses an ultimate aspiration of a “Future Sustainable Asia” by catalyzing dialogues, discussions, and debate from multidisciplinary, cross-country, and cross-sectoral perspectives and approaches. The Forum aims to generate new ideas and explore means to transform sustainability concepts into practice (and vice versa) at policy and other crucial levels of implementation and action. To fulfill its objectives, the Forum actively seeks meaningful engagements with members of the public who can share invaluable wisdom and empirical evidence from their lives and communities, while maintaining the format and principle of an academic conference.

The Bangkok Forum will organize a regional conference bi-annually. To meet its vision, however, the Forum emphasizes the implementation of concrete actions in partnership with various stakeholders in the region during the time between the bi-annual Forums.







## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bangkok Forum 2018 was made possible with funding from Chulalongkorn University, Korean Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS) and several local funding partners. It was organized in partnership with ASEAN University Network, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand, ProsPER.Net, Thailand Research Fund, The Japan Foundation Asia Center, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Thailand High-Level Political Forum Alliance, UNESCAP, and UNESCO Bangkok.

Editorial team which oversaw the publication of this volume, wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the following individuals.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn for her speech at the Forum and her gracious permission for this volume to carry the text;

The keynote speakers, presenters, session chairs/discussants, for their invaluable contributions which comprise the volume;

Theodore Mayer who collaborated in putting together an executive report,

Mario Tabucanon, Ushio Miura, Andreea R. Toree, Julie Hunter, Theodore Mayer for their session summaries—vital inputs to the executive report; and

Jackie Imamura for editorial inputs and technical editing with great dedication.

### Editorial Advisors

Surichai Wun'Gaeo

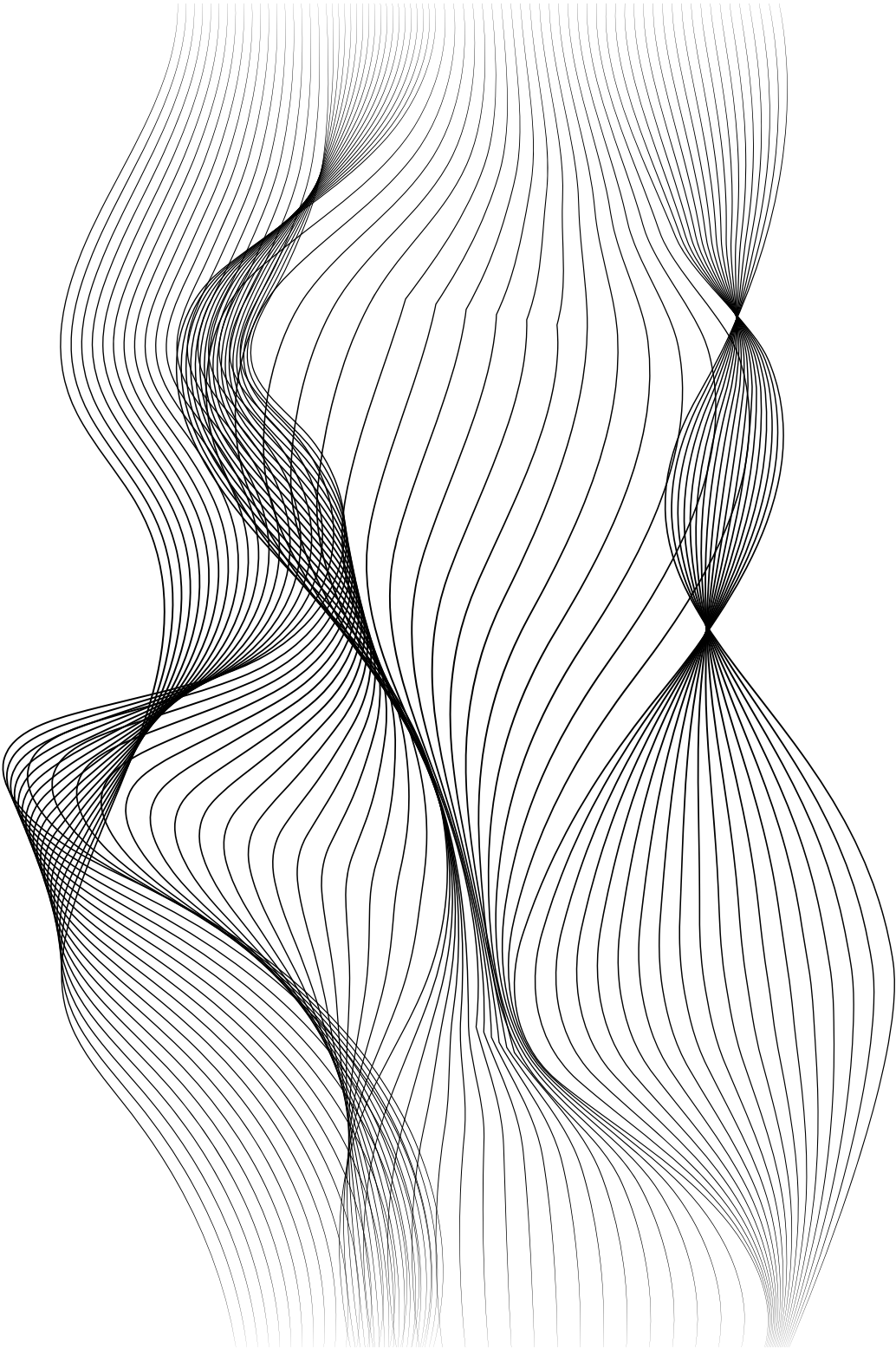
Pirongrong Ramasoota

### Editorial Team

Michiko Yoshida

Narumol Aphinives







## BANGKOK FORUM 2018 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Co-chaired by the President of Chulalongkorn University and President of Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies, the Organizing Committee is consisted of Chulalongkorn University executives and representatives from local and international partners of the Bangkok Forum 2018. The partners are invited to address technical, academic and financial aspects of the Forum, in order to nurture the Forum into a lasting platform.

### Co-chairs:

Prof. Dr. Bundhit Eua-arporn, President, Chulalongkorn University

Mr. Park In-kook, President, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies

### Executives from Chulalongkorn University:

Prof. Dr. Pirom Kamol-ratanakul, President, University Council

Prof. Dr. Narin Hirsutthikul, Vice President for Strategy, Planning and Budgeting

Prof. Dr. Boonchai Stitmanathum, Vice President for Administration

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wisanu Subsompon, Vice President for Property and Innovation Management

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pimpana Peetathawatchai, Vice President for Accounting and Finance

Prof. Dr. Pirongrong Ramasoota, Vice President for Social Outreach and Global Engagement

### Representatives from Partners (advisors):

H.E. Mr. Tshering DORJI, Ambassador of Bhutan to Thailand

Dr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director, Environment and Development Division, UNESCAP Thailand

Mrs. Kanchana Patarachoke, Director-General of the Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Dr. Priyanut Dharmapiya, Board Member, Thailand Sustainable Development Foundation

### Head of Sub-committees (Chulalongkorn University):

Prof. Dr. Pirongrong Ramasoota, Vice President for Social Outreach and Global Engagement

Dr. Chanisa Tantixalerm, Assistant to the President for Secretary, Ceremony, and Special Affairs

Prof. Surichai Wun'Gaeo, Professor Emeritus, Research Professor, Director, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

Lt.Cdr. Yananuch Thanosing, Director, Office of Physical Resources Management

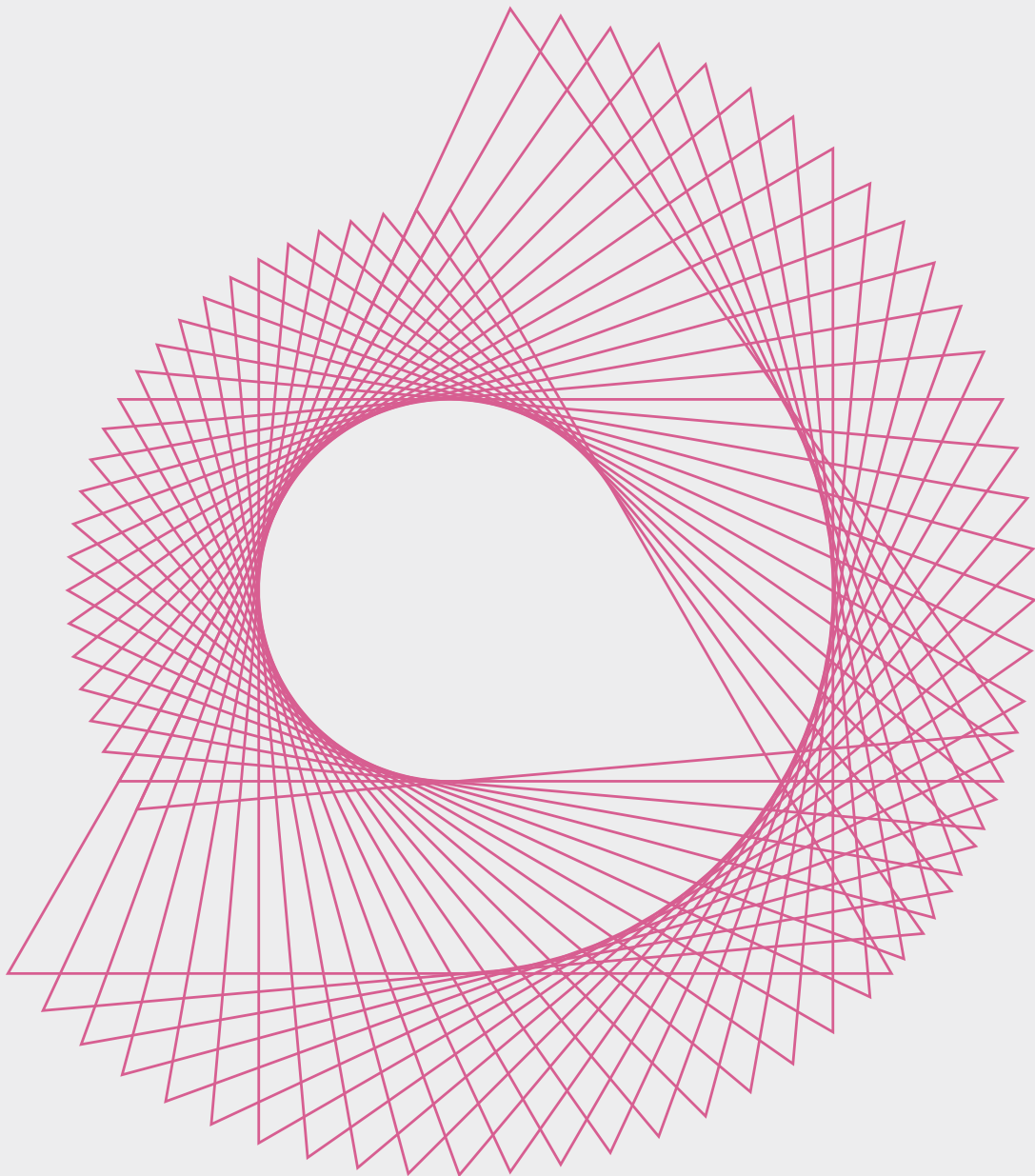
Ms. Dharinee Chaiprapal, Director, Chulalongkorn University Communication Center

Ms. Patchareeya Buamahakul, Director, Office of Human Resources Management

Ms. Chariya Lapvorakitchai, Director, Office of Fiscal Management, Accounts and Supplies

Mr. Vorrapong Sukteera-anantachai, Director, Office of Property Management







## THE CONTRIBUTORS

(In alphabetical order according to the names as they are spelled)

**Ahmad Rifai** is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Kota Kita Foundation in Solo, Central Java, Indonesia. Since 2010, Kota Kita has been working in different cities in Indonesia encouraging citizen participation and collective action to bring about change. With Kota Kita, he developed the Urban Citizenship Academy (UCA), where he is actively involved in assisting groups of young urban activists in different cities to develop useful projects at the community level. Kota Kita also established an annual platform for engagement and sharing experiences and knowledge on urban development and initiatives called the Urban Social Forum (USF). Apart from involving in guiding many urban projects in Kota Kita, Ahmad has consulted for projects of the UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, GIZ and ADB. Ahmad gained his MA in 2007 from UIN Yogyakarta and McGill University, and then finished his MSc in 2014 from the Development Planning Unit (DPU) of the University College London. Ahmad was also a finalist of the UK Alumni Award 2015 in the Social Impact Category.

**Ananta Kumar Giri** is a Professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies in Chennai, India. He has taught and done research in many universities in India and abroad, including Aalborg University (Denmark), Maison des sciences de l'homme, Paris (France), the University of Kentucky (USA), University of Freiburg & Humboldt University (Germany), Jagiellonian University (Poland), and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has an abiding interest in social movements and cultural change, criticism, creativity and contemporary dialectics of transformation, theories of self, culture and society, and creative streams in education, philosophy and literature. Dr. Giri has written and edited around two dozen books in Odia and English, including *Self-Development and Social Transformations? The Vision and Practice of Self-Study Mobilization of Swadhyaya* (2008); *Mochio Darshanika* (The Cobbler and the Philosopher, 2009); *Sociology and Beyond: Windows and Horizons* (2012), *Knowledge and Human Liberation: Towards Planetary Realizations* (2013); *Beyond Sociology* (editor, 2018); *Social Theory and Asian Dialogues: Cultivating Planetary Conversations* (editor, 2018); *Practical Spirituality and Human Development 2 Volumes* (editor, 2018); *Weaving New Hats: Our Half Birthdays* (2018); and *Beyond Cosmopolitanism: Towards Planetary Transformations* (editor, 2018).

**Andreea R. Torre** engages in research and policy engagement in the broader areas of environment and sustainable development as part of the Gender, Environment and Development (GED) Cluster at the Stockholm Environment Institute - Asia Centre (Bangkok, Thailand). Her work adopts a gender and social equality approach applied to thematic areas such as gender and coastal and marine resource management and climate change and disaster risk with a focus on migration and displacement. She is interested in understanding inequality drivers that shape vulnerabilities and which in turn can contribute to displacements and/or weaken individuals' and communities' abilities to adapt and to build long-term resilience to disasters and climate change. Before joining SEI Asia, Dr. Torre was a lecturer in Development Studies at The University of the South Pacific, Fiji and conducted fieldwork in Italy, the UK, Ukraine, Ecuador, Philippines, Nepal, Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa. Dr. Torre holds a PhD in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and a MSc in Social Anthropology from University College London (UCL).



## THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Avorn Opatpatanakit** is Vice President and Associate Professor of the Department of Agricultural Extension and Economics in the Faculty of Agriculture at Chiang Mai University, Thailand. She was Assistant to the President for Research and Academic Service Affairs of Chiang Mai University from 2010 until recently. She obtained Bachelor and Master's degrees in Agricultural Extension. She received her PhD in Agriculture and Rural Development from the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury, Australia. Dr. Opatpatnakit also served as coordinator of the Community-based Research Division of the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) during 1996-2010, facilitating the development of community-based research projects conducted by community people, university researchers, and students. She has undertaken research projects and published academic articles on community empowerment, university social engagement, and socially-engaged scholarship ecology systems in Thailand. Dr. Opatpatanakit is now the Secretary of the Committee for Developing the Model and Standard of Socially-Engaged Scholarship Document for professorate promotion in Thailand. She is developing a socially-engaged scholarship network in Thailand.

**Bharat Dahiya** is Senior Advisor to the Environment, Development and Sustainability Program at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand and an award-winning Urbanist. He combines research, policy-analysis, and development practice aimed at examining and tackling socio-economic, environmental, and governance issues in the global urban context. Working with the World Bank, UN-Habitat, the ADB, UNDP and UNU, he initiated, led and contributed to international projects on sustainable urban development in the Asia-Pacific. He conceptualized and coordinated the preparation of the UN's first-ever report on *The State of Asian Cities*. At the World Bank, he conducted the first-ever systematic review of the Bank's investments for improving urban livability, published as a co-authored book, *Urban Environment and Infrastructure: Toward Livable Cities*. More recently, he co-authored *Partnering for Sustainable Development* (UNU, Tokyo, and ESCAP, Bangkok). Dr. Bharat is the Series Editor for the Springer book series, *Advances in 21st Century Human Settlements*. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge, UK.

**Boonthan T. Verawongse** is a secretary general at the Human Rights and Development Foundation, which was established by human rights academics and a human rights lawyer in 2000. One of its main objectives is "to promote and protect human rights, democracy and peace." Boonthan also established the Mae Sot Labor Law Clinic in Tak Province, which works to promote and protect the human rights of local and migrant workers from Myanmar. He also serves as a secretary general for the Campaign for Popular Democracy (CPD) and the Campaign Committee for Human Rights (CCHR). He has always been active in human rights protection and once served as a director of Amnesty International Thailand between 2005 and 2008. He is also a current director of the Peace and Human Rights Resource Center (PHRC) and was a member of ASEAN Watch Thailand and the Political Development Council (PDC) between 2015-2016.

**Carl Middleton** is an Assistant Professor and the Deputy Director for Research in the Master of Arts in International Development Studies (MAIDS) Programme, and the Director of the Center for Social Development Studies (CSDS) in the Faculty of Political Science of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Dr. Middleton's research interests orient around the politics and policy of the environment in Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on transdisciplinary research methods, nature-society relations, environmental justice and social movements, and the political ecology of water and energy.



**Chanthalangsy Sisouvanh** is the founder and Executive Director of the Rural Development Agency (RDA) in Laos. The RDA is a local non-profit organization founded in 2009 as a learning centre of the Participatory Development Training Centre (PADETC). RDA has extensive experience of working with young people, local authorities and village officials in promoting sustainable and inclusive community development. Chanthalangsy holds a Master's degree in Economy and Society from Lancaster University in Poland. Chanthalangsy desires to empower rural women, girls, youth, and indigenous communities to get involved in decision-making. She supports female village leaders by holding community activities to strengthen and increase their numbers in local village leadership, working toward socio-economic empowerment and transformation. She works to increase knowledge about women's health, promotes literacy for rural women, and supports poor women and girls, thus equipping them to better find employment through small scale entrepreneurship in both urban and rural communities of Lao PDR.

**Chanathip Pharino** is an Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Pharino has served as the Program Director of the Public Wellbeing Division of the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) since 2014. Dr. Pharino manages overall research granting process to create knowledge, policy and innovations, strengthens capacity of researchers and excellence centers in priority issues, and promotes research utilization with stakeholders. The TRF Public Wellbeing Division focuses on developing an understanding to promote environmental and social welfare toward sustainable development. Current programs and projects focus on areas of climate change science, climate change policy and technology for mitigation and adaptation, water resource management, disaster preparation and management and related issues. During 2013-2016, she served as a committee member on the Thailand National Board of Climate Change Policy. She holds a PhD in Environmental Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her research focuses on Environmental System Management, GHG Management and Climate Change Policy. She is the author of *Sustainable Water Quality Management Policy: The Role of Trading, the U.S. Experience*. She has co-authored several books including *The Global Rise of Asian Transformation, Sustainability Challenges in the Agrofood Sector*.

**Chheang Vannarith** has over ten years of work experience as a geopolitical and geo-economic analyst, with a focus on Southeast Asia. He was selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2013. He is currently an Opinion Editor of the *Khmer Times*, an Associate Fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, an Advisor to the Cambodia Civil Society Alliance Forum (Council of Ministers), an Advisor to the National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation), and a Senior Fellow and Board Member of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, where he served as Executive Director from 2009 to 2013 (he was also appointed as Assistant to the Defense Minister from 2011 to 2012 and Advisor to the National Assembly in 2011). He was a lecturer at the University of Leeds (UK), and visiting fellow at IDE-JETRO (Japan), East West Center (US), China Institute of International Relations (China), and ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (Singapore). Chheang received a BA in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam in 2002, an MA in International Relations from the International University of Japan in 2006, Graduate in Leadership from the East West Center in 2008, and a PhD in Asia Pacific Studies from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in 2009.



## THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Choltis Dhirathiti** is currently the Executive Director of the ASEAN University Network (AUN), an inter-governmental organization under the ASEAN Secretariat. He is also a Lecturer in Politics at the Faculty of Political Science at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, where he has been teaching normative political theory since 1996. His academic research interests include history of Western political thought, philosophical idealism and political ethics. His public services in Thailand involve thinking-skill trainings and public sector strategies. Dr. Choltis has worked for ASEAN University Network (AUN) since 2009 where he employs his experience on public sector strategies, policy consultancy and human resource development to the work of regional and multilateral cooperation among universities in Southeast Asia.

**Cynthia Maung** is a human rights advocate and the founder and Director of the Mae Tao Clinic, which is a community-based organization that provides and advocates for an equitable and essential health system, education, and protection for vulnerable and displaced people living in the Thai-Burma border area and Eastern Burma. Mae Tao Clinic has been addressing the health care needs and human rights of these people through comprehensive programs and a collaborative approach with local, national, international and government bodies for almost 30 years. Dr. Cynthia has received many accolades for her work, including the Roux Prize 2018, the Sydney Peace Prize 2013, the National Endowment for Democracy Award 2012, and the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2002. She has received an Honorary Doctorate in Medicine from Ubon Ratchathani University in Thailand.

**Dicky Sofjan** is a Core Doctoral Faculty in the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS), located in the Graduate School of the Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Yogyakarta. His main areas of research are religion, Islam, pluralism, multiculturalism, and religious 'othering,' with specific emphasis on Indonesia, Malaysia, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. His research interest and recent work include how culture and spirituality play into nature issues of sustainability. Dr. Sofjan is involved in a number of networks, including the Asian Public Intellectuals (API), American-Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF), US-Indonesia Council on Religion and Pluralism, and the Global Center for the Study of Spiritually Engaged Sustainability. He is wrapping up his multi-year, nine-country collaborative research program entitled Religion, Public Policy and Social Transformation in Southeast Asia, sponsored by the Luce Foundation. Dr. Sofjan has spoken in numerous international conference circuits in the United States, Europe, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Iran and Japan.

**Elke Loichinger** is a Senior Research Fellow and Head of the research group Demographic Change at the Federal Institute for Population Research in Germany and a guest research scholar at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria. Previously, Dr. Loichinger held positions at the College of Population Studies at Chulalongkorn University, at the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital in Vienna, Austria, and at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, Germany. Her research interests include population projections, measures of aging, and various aspects of demographic change in Europe and Southeast Asia, for example prospects of labor supply and older adults' health status. She has a graduate degree in geography from the University of Regensburg, Germany, a Masters of Public Policy from Duke University, USA, and a PhD in statistics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria.



**Emerlynne Gil** is the Senior International Legal Adviser of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). She leads ICJ's work globally on access to justice for women and is the organization's focal person for the ASEAN. Her areas of expertise include freedom of opinion and expression, national security, and justice sector reform. Prior to joining ICJ, she led regional and international advocacy initiatives on the implementation of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders as Programme Manager of FORUM-ASIA's Human Rights Defenders Programme. She also acted as coordinator of the Asian NGOs Network on National Human Rights Institutions (ANNI). Ms. Gil served as a law clerk under Justice Adolfo S. Azcuna at the Supreme Court of the Philippines and also as a lecturer at the University of the Philippines' Department of English and Comparative Literature. She also worked as a corporate and labor litigation attorney at a law firm in Makati City, Philippines, immediately after receiving her law degree from the University of the Philippines.

**Ermina Sokou** is a Social Affairs Officer in the Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation Section of the Social Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand. She is working on measuring and addressing inequality and poverty in Asia and the Pacific, with a focus on inequality of opportunity. She previously worked in the Environment and Development Division at ESCAP on water, sanitation and energy access and on programme management at ESCWA in Beirut. Before joining the United Nations, she worked for BP. She holds an MA in Economics from Tufts University and an MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, also at Tufts University.

**Gavin Jones** is Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University. After working for the Population Council in New York, then in Thailand and Indonesia, he was with the Demography and Sociology Program at the Australian National University for 28 years, serving as head of program for an eight-year period. This was followed by an 11-year period with the National University of Singapore. He retired in December 2014 as Director of NUS's JY Pillay Comparative Asia Research Centre. Professor Jones has conducted research on varied subjects in the field of demography and human resource development, in recent years focusing especially on low fertility regimes in Asia, delayed and non-marriage, urbanization issues, and equity aspects of educational development. He has served as consultant to many international agencies, and has published about 30 books and monographs and some 170 refereed journal articles and book chapters. He was founding editor of the journal *Asian Population Studies*.

**Harin Sachdev** established the Learning, Research and Technology Initiative Center for Livable City Management and Environmental Sustainability at Mahidol University. His work is centered around developing and integrating a systemic approach and scenario disciplines to advance sustainable strategies. He currently works as a project manager and consultant for international environmental organizations, Thailand's several ministries, local governments, and private sector actors on sustainable development strategy. His research focuses on climate change policy, sustainable environment, and livable city strategies. He currently carries out research focused on Thailand's post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), with emphasis on mechanisms of goal selection, monitoring and review, and means of implementation. Among others, he serves as a steering committee member of a governance project on low-carbon society sustainability and the development of an ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable CityModel (ESC).



## THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Hezri Adnan** is a Senior Director (of Research) at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia. He specialises in comparative public policy, with work spanning areas such as sustainable development strategy, green economy, and natural resources security. Dr. Hezri has consulted for UN agencies, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank on many issues related to development and resource challenges in the developing world. His past and current advisory roles include Cleared Advisor for the Malaysian Ministry of International Trade and Industries. He has also undertaken fieldwork in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Japan and Australia. From 2015 to June 2018, Hezri served as a Member of the United Nations' International Resource Panel (IRP), a UN Environment expert body that focuses on strategic issues of resource scarcity, efficiency and decoupling. He is an elected Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM), and currently holds visiting status as Honorary Associate Professor at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University and Adjunct Professor at Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN). Among his over 100 publications is *The Sustainability Shift: Refashioning Malaysia's Future*, which was funded by The Perdana Prime Minister's Exchange Fellowship. Dr. Hezri holds a PhD in Public Policy from the Australian National University.

**Imtiaz Ahmed** was born in Barisal, Bangladesh, and is the Professor of International Relations and the Director of the Centre for Genocide Studies at the University of Dhaka. Professor Ahmed was educated at the University of Dhaka, The Australian National University, Canberra, and Carlton University, Ottawa. He is also currently a Visiting Professor at Sagesse University in Beirut. Professor Ahmed is the recipient of various awards and honours. He has authored, co-authored, or edited 22 books and 8 monographs. More than 100 research papers and scholarly articles have been published in leading journals and chapters in edited volumes. His recent publications are: *The Plight of the Stateless Rohingyas: Responses of the State, Society & the International Community*, ed. (Dhaka: University Press Limited, 2010); *Human Rights in Bangladesh: Past, Present & Futures*, ed. (Dhaka: University Press Limited, 2014); *People of Many Rivers: Tales from the Riverbanks* (Dhaka: University Press Limited, 2015); and *South Asian Rivers: A Framework for Cooperation*, ed. (Berlin: Springer, 2018).

**Jaeyeol Yee** is a Professor of Sociology at Seoul National University in Korea. He is the Director of the Korea Social Science Data Archive, a board member of the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Center for Social Entrepreneurship Studies. His original research subjects include theory construction, social networks, organizations, and manmade disasters. His recent research focuses on social innovation, social value, social economy, social well-being and social quality. His recent coauthored books include *Social Values and Social Innovation: Toward a Symbiotically Sustainable Community* (2018), *Beyond Suffering Society: Integrative Approach of Social Well-Being Research and Practice* (2018), *Social Economy and Social Value: Ancient Future of Capitalism* (2016). Detailed biographical information is available at his webpage (<http://jyyee.snu.ac.kr>).



**Jin Guangyao** is a Professor at Department of History at Fudan University. He is also the Director of the International Center for Studies of Chinese Civilization and the Asia Research Center at Fudan University. Professor Jin is a former visiting scholar at the University of Leeds and Columbia University, and worked as a visiting professor in Lund University and the Virginia Commonwealth University. Professor Jin's main research focused on the history of China's foreign relations, especially the diplomatic history of the Republican China. His academic works include *Wellington Koo's Biography*, *From Wangxia Treaty to Clinton's visit to China – China-US Relations 1784-1996* (co-author), *From the Treaty of Nerchinsk to Yeltsin's visit China – Relationship of China and Russia 1689-1989* (co-author). He also edited *Wellington Koo and Chinese Diplomacy* and *The Diplomacy in the Period of the Northern Warlords* (eds.), and *Educated youth Tribe: 10000 Shanghai People in Mount Huang* (eds.)

**Jonathan Rigg** is the Director of the Asia Research Institute and a Professor of Geography at the National University of Singapore. He works on issues of agrarian transformation, poverty, vulnerability, migration, disaster, and livelihoods in the Asian region, and has undertaken fieldwork in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. His book *Challenging Southeast Asian development: the shadows of success* was published by Routledge in 2015 and explores the underside of rapid economic growth and structural change. His latest book, *More than rural: textures of Thailand's agrarian transformation*, is forthcoming by Hawaii University Press and draws on three decades of field-based research in Thailand.

**Khamphoui Saythalat** is the Executive Director of the Participatory Development Training Centre (PADETC) in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Established in 1996. PADETC is an indigenous, all-Lao organization committed to making a unique and distinctive contribution to the development of Laos. PADETC's work is based on the principles of Education for Sustainable Development — development with a balance among social development, economic development, and environmental harmony. The key work areas are: capacity building for young civic organizations, service delivery through learning centers and networks, leadership, and advocacy. Since 1996, Khamphoui has been working with a number of development organizations (including UNDP and UNODC), and a French research institute (IRD) in Laos to empower local people to fully participate in the development process. Over 10 years with PADETC, he has successfully led the PADETC team during the last ten years by being a role model and developing a long-term strategic plan for PADETC to transform from a Center to a College by 2025. In addition, he has also played an important advisory role for a number of Lao CSOs, as these were the main subjects of his MSc dissertation with Ustinov College at Durham University in the UK in 2015.

**Kohei Watanabe** is an Associate Professor at Teikyo University (Tokyo, Japan) and a Research Associate at the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre, University of Cambridge, UK. He obtained his PhD (Geography, Cambridge) on the topic of household waste management. His current research topics include analysis of municipal waste statistics, food waste minimization and waste management in Southeast Asia. He is the convener of the waste management policy research group under the Japan Society of Material Cycles and Waste Management. He also sits on several advisory committees on waste management for municipalities in Japan.



## THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Li Chun Fu** is an Associate Professor of political science at the Zhou Enlai School of Government of Nankai University in China. His current research interests include, comparative politics, nationalism theory and East Asia, the South Korean government and politics, the Korean Peninsula and the East Asian security order, and International Relations Theory of East Asia.

**Mariko Komatsu** is currently a PhD student in the Social Reconstruction Course of the Phoenix Leadership Education Program at Hiroshima University in Japan. Mariko majors in social psychology and reconstruction from radiation disasters. Most recently, her academic interest involves children's cognition of and attitudes towards society after the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident and during reconstruction. Following the Great East-Japan Earthquake in 2011, Mariko went to Iwate prefecture and joined the emergency recovery team of the Japanese Committee of UNICEF, and from April 2012 worked with a Japanese NGO, the Japan-Iraq Medical Network (JIM-NET) to lead their projects in Fukushima, providing support to a civic movement that measured radiation levels in food and the local environments. She was also responsible for organizing radiation literacy workshops. Since 2016, Mariko has served as the JIM-NET liaison officer with the Fukushima Booklet Committee to share lessons learned from the Fukushima radiation disaster. With her background in Education, a bachelor's degree in education from McGill University, and both a M.Ed. in Curriculum Development and a M.A. in Social Psychology from Hiroshima University, Mariko also serves as a facilitator and curriculum planner at the Fukushima Booklet Committee's global strategy meetings.

**Mario T. Tabucanon** is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), Tokyo, Japan, and an Emeritus Professor at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand. At UNU-IAS, he serves as the Asia-Pacific Regional Adviser to the Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), oversees the academic alliance in the Asia-Pacific region known as the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network (ProSPER.Net), and leads the offering of the annual ASEAN+3 Leadership Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, among other responsibilities. At AIT, he has served on the faculty for three decades and assumed senior leadership positions such as Acting President and Provost. He is the founding President of the International Society of Environmental and Rural Development (ISERD) and serves on the international editorial boards of prestigious international refereed scientific and development journals.

**M. Nadarajah (Nat)** holds a PhD in sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Over the last 40 odd years, he has worked in many capacities and positions, in many national and international organizations. His journey has taken him through a number of interconnected initiatives covering a wide range of concerns: consumerism, environmentalism, mediated realities and critical media education, philanthropy, education (including pre-school), people-oriented design development, institution building, software development, process management, strategic planning, urbanism, agroecology, multiversity, alternative healing practices, inter-faith initiatives, sustainability and spirituality. Dr. Nat has a number of books and documentaries to his credit. He is now appointed as chair professor of the Xavier Centre for Humanities and Compassion Studies at Xavier University in Bhubaneswar, India. In the long term, his effort is directed at forming the



School of New Humanities and Social Sciences based on transformative learning and transdisciplinarity. The School will go beyond the usual disciplinary streams and silos and answer the needs of a troubled world.

**Mochamad Indrawan**, with the Research Center for Climate Change - Universitas Indonesia is an ecologist by training and has been an active conservation biologist in the field. His work in the Banggai Islands in central Sulawesi since 1991 resulted in strengthened capacities of the local traditional community, revitalization of traditional ecological knowledge, and developed local incentives and championships to undertake tenurial rights and responsibilities. These eventually contributed to establishment of true community conserved areas. The biological conservation text book he co-authored with Richard Primack and Jatna Supriatna has seen its fourth printing in Indonesia. A member of two IUCN specialist groups (the World Commission on Protected Areas, and the Red List Authority), Dr. Indrawan, has also been a research associate at Kansas University, USA, and visiting scholar at Kyushu University, Japan.

**Naoya Tsukamoto** obtained a Master of Environmental Science from Johns Hopkins University, USA in 2005 and a Bachelor of Physics from University of Tokyo, Japan in 1985. During 2005-2008, he served as the Head of Japanese Delegation to the IPCC/AR4. During 2014-2016, he worked for the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) as Secretary-General/Principal Researcher. During 2016-2018, he serves as Project Director under the United Nations University, Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). He is currently the Director of the Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand.

**Nestor Castro** is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. His research interests include environmental and social impact assessment, indigenous peoples' safeguard issues, and cultural heritage management. He served as Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs at UP Diliman from 2014 until the middle of 2018. In that capacity, he initiated sustainability projects in the University, such as the introduction of e-vehicles inside the campus, delineation of bicycle lanes, and the installation of a bioreactor for decomposing yard waste. He is co-author of *The National Environmental Education Action Plan 2018-2040*, the Philippine government's official roadmap for education for sustainable development. Dr. Castro is currently the President of the International Federation of Social Science Organizations (IFSSO).

**Norichika Kanie** is a Professor in the Graduate School of Media and Governance at Keio University in Japan. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS). His research focuses on international environmental governance, climate change policy, and sustainable development governance. He led a three-year strategic project on Sustainable Development Goals (FY2013-FY2015) by Japan's Ministry of the Environment. He serves on various committees and steering groups, including: the scientific steering committee of the Earth System Governance project; the SDGs Promotion Round-Table in the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, the Government of Japan; the Promotion of Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan. He recently published the book *Governing through Goals: Sustainable Development Goals as Governance Innovation* (2017, MIT Press, co-edited with Frank Biermann). He received a PhD in Media and Governance from Keio University (2001).



## THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Pasicha Chaikaew** is an Assistant Professor of the Department of Environmental Science in the Faculty of Science at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, where she engages in educating youth and working with different groups of people who are moved by similar motivation in sustainability areas. During 2009-2014, Pasicha received the Royal Thai Government Scholarship to pursue a doctoral degree in Soil and Water Science program from the University of Florida. She was awarded the Excellence in Graduate Studies at the PhD Level, established by the Soil and Water Department. Her career expertise involves the application of statistical and geostatistical methods applicable to empirical and legacy data analysis in large scale socio-ecological concerns. In addition to her profession, Pasicha has worked internationally to advance her transformative leadership skill in sustainable development in a participant role and as an organizer.

**Pasuk Phongpaichit** is Professor Emeritus of Political Economy in the Faculty of Economics at Chulalongkorn University, and for the last 5 years, was employed as a Distinguished Research Professor. She advocates reducing all forms of inequality as part of achieving social sustainability goals. This is reflected in her recent research works, such as *Unequal Thailand: Aspects of Income, Wealth and Power* (2016); and *Reform Guidelines for Personal Income Taxation and the Analysis of Income Distribution Amongst Tax Payers* (2016, received the Best Research Award from Thailand Research Fund). The latter forms part of a campaign to promote tax reform to finance the social welfare programs necessary for achieving a more egalitarian society. Her current research interest focuses on the issues of land distribution and land management for social sustainability.

**Paulista Surjadi** is the Communication Director of Kota Kita, an Indonesia-based foundation that addresses urban issues through participatory planning and the involvement of citizens in the planning and design process. The foundation uses tools and technology to improve participation and ensure inclusivity in the making of a city. Paulista is a lead facilitator for the foundation's Urban Citizenship Academy, a training initiative for youth activists that involves learning of practical knowledge, including mapping and advocacy. She also leads the implementation of an open, inclusive, and free platform to discuss and put forward a consistent discourse for inclusive and sustainable cities, called the Urban Social Forum. Paulista holds BA (Hons) in Cultural Studies and Communication from Monash University, Malaysia.

**Penchom Saetang** established the first citizen network to monitor industrial pollution and its health effects in Thailand, the Campaign for Alternative Industry Network (CAIN), in 1997. The CAIN was registered as the Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand (EARTH) Foundation in 2009. Her efforts enhance neighborhood capacity to collect pollutant data, and involve scientists in support of citizens to demand corporate and government accountability. The network publishes scientific data and analysis; supports environmental litigation; and advocates for a national policy to guarantee the public's right to know about pollutants and require health impact assessments of industrial development projects. To ensure that citizen concerns are represented in the latest negotiations by industries and the government on climate change, Penchom has also pioneered a national campaign for climate justice.



**Priyanut Dharmapiya (Piboolsravut)** directs the Sufficiency School Centre at the Foundation of Virtuous Youth. During 2005–2011, she was the Sufficiency Economy Research Project Director at the Crown Property Bureau, and from 2003–2005, the Director of the Sufficiency Economy Unit at the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) in Thailand. Prior to that, she was Director of the International Economic Policy Unit, and worked in various other capacities at the NESDB. Her main research interests are in Buddhist economics and learning design for cultivating sufficiency economy mindsets and actions. Dr. Dharmapiya received her PhD in economics from Simon Fraser University, Canada, and her Master's degree in economics and Bachelor's degree in socio-economic planning from Tsukuba University, Japan.

**Sakchai Patiparnpreechavud** is currently the Vice President of Polyolefins and Vinyl Business, in the Chemicals Business of the Siam Cement Group (SCG), the largest industrial conglomerate in Thailand. He has gained more than 20 years of experience in petrochemical acumen since joining in 1989 as a process engineer. He excelled in key manufacturing, commercial and investment projects both domestic and overseas, before rising to become vice president. He also supervises and serves several directorships covering a number of affiliates in the Chemicals Business. He holds a bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering from Chulalongkorn University and an MBA from Kasetsart University, as well as internationally renowned management programs.

**Sawang Srisom** is an advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. He works as a programme manager for Transportation for All (T4A) in Thailand, which advocates for public transport to become more accessible to people with disabilities and all. He has been part of the movement that mobilized efforts to help the Bangkok Transit System become more accessible. If you use the BTS, you can see lifts in almost all stations now. Sawang has worked for three international organizations since 2003. All of them support the human rights of people with disabilities in various aspects of development. Due to barriers in our society, most of his education was outside the formal system. He is now studying for his MA in international development at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. His experience facing 'unsustainability' himself has given him unique perspectives on social sustainability.

**Sayamol Charoenratana** is a researcher at the professor level at the Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute in Thailand. She is also a head of the Human Security and Equity Research Unit of Chulalongkorn University. Her research focus is on Community Impact from Globalization and Policy, Social Equality, Sustainable Development, Food Security, Agricultural Justice, Marginalization, Human Rights, Human Security, and Ethnic and Marginal Groups in Thailand and Asia. Her Agricultural Justice research examines Land and Food Security at the rural community level in Thailand and studies a marginal group affected by social equality. She was funded by government sectors to develop policy recommendations for risk groups, including informal labor, farmers, drug users and the poor. She is on the advisory board of the ONCB, Thailand.



## THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Seejae Lee** is a Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the Catholic University of Korea. He was born and raised in South Korea, and graduated from Seoul National University and the University of Tokyo. He also conducted research at Delaware State University, Peking University, and Renmin University in China and has taught at Songkroh University in Korea. He is a founding member of the Global University for Sustainability. He taught and researched on environmental sociology, social movements, theoretical sociology, and the sociology of food. He is a founding member of the East Asian Environmental Sociologists Network, and the East Asian Sociologists' Association. He is a founding member of the Korea Federation of Environmental Movement (KFEM), and was its Co-Chairperson during 2008-2014 and also the Director of the Citizens' Institute for Environmental Studies (CIES). He is currently the Board Director of the ECO cooperative, and Deputy President of the Dure Cooperative Federation.

**Smriti Das** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Policy Studies at the TERI School of Advanced Studies in Delhi, India. Her research focuses on aspects of environmental governance, politics of resource management, decentralized planning, and gender. She recently completed a research study on land-water-community security in the mid-Ganga basin using a landscape approach. She has been closely studying the implementation of forest rights legislation in India to both evaluate the processes as well as assess the sustainability of forests and community institutions. She coordinates the Masters programme in Sustainable Development Practice at the TERI SAS and is a member of the Academic Steering Committee and Regional Chair of the Asia chapter of the Global Association of MDP programmes, based at the Earth Institute of Columbia University. Her recent publications pertain to the deconstruction of forest communities in forest policies and assessing the gender responsiveness of forest policies in India.

**Somchai Jitsuchon** is currently a Research Director of inclusive development at the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Thailand. He specializes in macroeconomic policies, macroeconomic modeling (computable general equilibrium models and econometric models), theories, and empirical applications on poverty and income distribution, inclusive growth, social protection, and welfare systems. His past experiences include being a visiting researcher at the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) in Tokyo, Japan and a special lecturer at various leading universities and public agencies in Thailand. He has served in many government and private committees and director boards, including as a current member of the National Reform Committee on Health. Dr. Somchai received his doctorate degree in Economics from the University of British Columbia, Canada.

**Suntariya Muanpawong** is a Research Judge from the Court of Appeals of Thailand. She received a Bachelor's and Master of Law degrees from Thammasat University and a Barrister at Law and Master and Doctorate Degree in public law from Muenster University in Germany. Before becoming a judge, she was a lawyer, a teacher in a Southeast Asian refugee camp, and a legal officer in the Harbor Department. Dr. Muangpawong was the first supervisor of the Judicial Research Institute, where she played a significant



role in developing the accountability and responsiveness of the judiciary. She has joined various human rights programs held by international institutions. She is a proponent of people-oriented justice reform and has conducted many research projects on justice and court reform, child rights protection, gender justice, prisoner rights, and environmental jurisprudence.

**Supa Yaimuang** is the Director of the Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (Thailand). She works together with farmers' organizations, promoting sustainable agriculture among farmers and rural communities and city farms among urban communities. She conducts research and information dissemination on issues related to sustainable agriculture, biodiversity and farmers' rights, food system and food security, climate change, and adaptation in the agricultural sector. She supports city people to develop city farms in Thailand and promotes city farms as a learning process for children, human development, food security, green city, and sustainable livelihood.

**Supawan Visetnoi** is an Assistant Professor and a full-time instructor at the School of Agricultural Resources (CUSAR) at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. She is currently the Assistant to the Dean for Research and Academic Services at CUSAR. Her research interests are agricultural development and education, particularly for youth, agricultural and food value chains, national policy on organic agriculture, and extension services to farmers that focuses on farmer development and sustainability.

**Surichai Wun'Gaeo** is a Professor Emeritus, Professor of Sociology (since 2009) and the Director (since 2010) of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. After post-graduate studies at the University of Tokyo, he has successively held various academic posts, including Director of Chulalongkorn University's Social Research Institute and visiting professorships at various universities, including Hitotsubashi, Japan, University of Illinois-UC, USA, and Humbolt, Germany. His research interests are wide-ranging and include the sociology of development, environmentalism and sustainable development, social movements, endogenous social theory and Japanese studies. His publications include: *Confronting Cultural Globalization: A New Framework for Policy*. Office of Contemporary Arts and Culture (in Thai, 2004); *The Provincality of Globalization: a Thai Perspective* (2004); *Rural Livelihoods and Human Insecurities in Globalizing Asian Economies* (2007); *Sociology of Tsunami: Coping with the Disaster* (in Thai, 2007), and *Health Governance and Institutional Learning Capacities in the New Context* (HSRI 2014). In 2014, he was selected as the Most Distinguished Researcher in Sociology by the National Research Council of Thailand. He has been active in civil society movements and democratization issues, including as the Chairperson of NGOs, namely, the Labor Rights Promotion Network and the Ecological Alert and Recovery Thailand (EARTH) Foundation. Triggered by increasing violence in Thailand's Southern-most provinces, he joined campaigns to change government policies under Mr. Thaksin. Consequently in 2004, he was a member and joint secretary of the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) chaired by Mr. Anand Panyarachun, a former Prime Minister of Thailand.



## THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Susan Vize** is the UNESCO Regional Adviser for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific based in Bangkok. Dr. Vize joined UNESCO in 2006 and spent eight years in Samoa as the Social and Human Sciences Programme Officer working on a range of projects with youth, social inclusion, bio-ethics, creative industries and education for sustainable development. In 2014 she transferred to the Regional Office in Bangkok and is working on youth and social inclusion projects across the region. She has acted as Officer in Charge for UNESCO in the Pacific and Ha Noi, Vietnam. Prior to joining UNESCO, Dr. Vize was the Executive Officer of the Murray-Darling Basin Community Advisory Committee based in Canberra, Australia. She has worked on a range of community natural resource management, capacity building and community education projects in Australia, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. She is a qualified teacher and trainer, and founding Principal of FNQ Training, a community-based TVET organisation working with Aboriginal communities and the unemployed in north Queensland.

**Tae Yong Jung** is currently a Professor at the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), and the Director of the Research Center for Global Sustainability in Yonsei University, Korea. Before he joined GSIS, he was a professor at the KDI School of Public Policy & Management. Prior to the KDI School, he was a Principal Climate Change Specialist at the Asian Development Bank. He was seconded to the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) located in the Republic of Korea as the Deputy Executive Director. Before ADB, he worked at the World Bank as a senior energy economist. He was also formerly the Project Leader in Climate Policy Project at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) of Japan and Senior Fellow and Director at Korea Energy Economics Institute. Educated at Seoul National University (BA) and at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (MA and PhD), he was a Visiting Researcher at the US National Energy Laboratory, the Join Global Change Research Institute, University of Maryland and a Joint Research Fellow at the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), and a Visiting Fellow at Kyoto University, Japan.

**Theodore Mayer** is an anthropologist of U.S. citizenship and German-Lutheran heritage who has resided roughly half of his life in Asia. His research and writing have focused on movements in Thailand that seek inspiration from Buddhist traditions to work for both personal and social transformation. Such movements are usually referred to in academic writing as “socially engaged Buddhism.” Theodore is a certified teacher of a peer-listening practice known as “co-counseling” and is a language teacher who has developed curricula for English, Spanish, and Thai. He is currently the Academic Director for the Institute for Transformative Learning of the Bangkok-based International Network of Engaged Buddhists. His research interests include approaches to transformative learning, the nature and trajectories of religious and ethical traditions and their engagement with social action, approaches to cultivating the moral imagination, modalities for mental and physical healing, social movements, phenomenology, and language teaching pedagogy.



**Thorn Pitidol** is a lecturer in the Faculty of Economics at Thammasat University in Thailand. He graduated from the University of Oxford, UK, receiving a MPhil in Development Studies and a DPhil in Social Policy. Dr. Thorn's research focus is at the intersection between economics and politics, with issues of interest ranging from community development and inequality to the welfare system in Thailand. His PhD work and his subsequent academic publications focus on applying multi-disciplinary approaches to understand Thailand's development and political issues. He is currently coordinating the Center for Research on Inequality and Social Policy (CRISP) at Thammasat University.

**Tidarat Sinlapapiromsuk** is a full-time lecturer of law in the Faculty of Law at Chulalongkorn University, where she currently serves as Vice Dean for International Affairs. She holds an LLB degree from the University of London (King's College London), an LLM in Global Business, and a PhD in Law from University of Washington. She specializes in International Business Transactions, International Investment Law, FCPA, Oil and Gas Law (Upstream), Settlement of Mass Tort Claims, and Alternative Dispute Resolutions. Apart from the laws relating to international business transactions, Dr. Tidarat also teaches Philosophy of Law, including theories of Justice. Her research projects include current issues of Petroleum Joint Development Agreements, Public Procurement Law in EFTA countries (funded by the Ministry of Finance), and oil-spill litigation and compensation regimes for coastal communities and local businesses. Dr. Tidarat was also appointed by Thailand's Council of State as a committee member to review a draft national legislation implementing the Vienna Sales Convention (CISG).

**Toshiyuki Doi** currently works for Mekong Watch, a Tokyo-based NGO, as a Senior Advisor. His research interest includes language revitalization, biocultural diversity, and linguistic typology. Toshi recently completed his PhD thesis entitled *Motion event expression of So, a Marginal Language in Sakon Nakhon Province in Northeast Thailand* (Mahidol University, 2018). His recent publications include *Cheum Chong: Outcomes and Challenges of Chong Language Revitalization Project* (In Premsrirat & Hirsh eds. *Language Revitalization: Insights from Thailand*. Peter Lang, 2018) and *Plants, Animals, Salt, and Spirits: How People Live with and Talk about the Environment* (With Bampen Chaiyarak, in Militante et al. eds. *Humanity and Nature: Traditional, Cultural, and Alternative Perspectives*, Focus on the Global South, 2016).

**Veerayooth Kanchoochat** is an Associate Professor of Political Economy at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo. He holds a Bachelor's in Engineering and a Master's in Economics from Chulalongkorn University, as well as a Master's in Philosophy and a PhD at the University of Cambridge in the UK. He has taught at GRIPS since 2013. His research interests range from the history of state formation to varieties of capitalism and reform politics, with a focus on East and Southeast Asia. His recent publications include *The Middle-income Trap and East Asian Miracle Lessons* (United Nations, 2015) and *Thailand Trapped: Catch-up Legacies and Contemporary Malaise* (TRaNS: Trans-Regional and National Studies of Southeast Asia, 2018). He is also a translator of the book *Economics: The User's Guide* (Penguin, 2014) into Thai language (Openworlds, 2560).



## THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Vipan Prachuabmoh** is Associate Professor and Dean at the College of Population Studies of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago in the USA. She is a demographer whose main research interests lie in the fields of fertility, aging, and population policy. During the past decade, her research works have been focused on issues related to population aging, including the policies and plans for older persons in Thailand, community based long-term care system, preparation for old age, and the contributions and values of older persons. She serves as a member of Thailand's 20-year National Strategy Committee, focusing on establishing opportunity and social equity, and the National Committee on Older Persons, the committee on reformation for the aging society of the National Reform Council, and is the co-principal investigator of Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis.

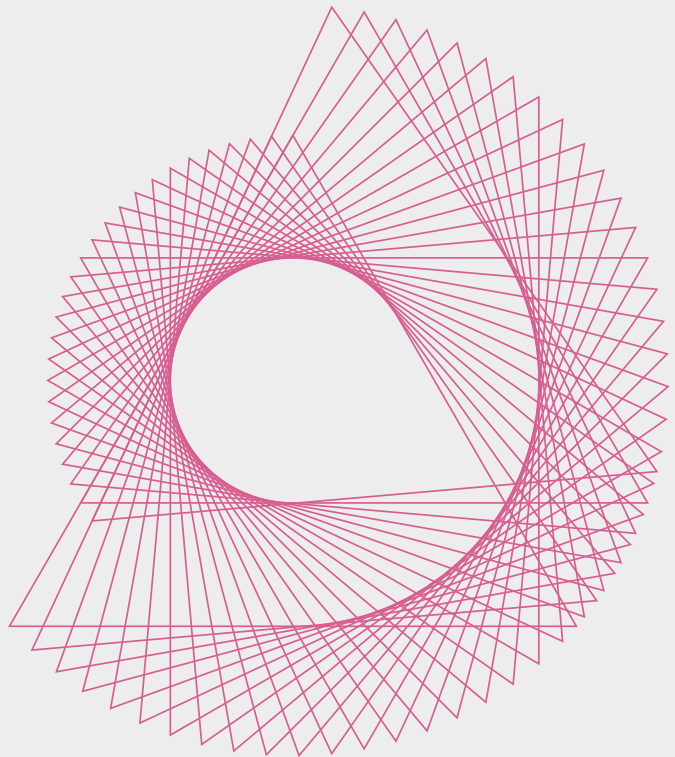
**Yi Shen** is an Associate Professor in the School of International Relations and Public Affairs at Fudan University in China. He received a PhD from Fudan University served as a research fellow in the Department of International Politics. He now serves as the Director of the Research Center for the Global Cyberspace Governance, and is the Non-Resident Researcher of the China Cyberspace Studying Institute, and an Individual Director of the China Association of Cybersecurity. His main research focuses on Cyber Security, Cyber Diplomacy, and the Governance of Global Cyberspace.

**Yeoh Seng-Guan** is Associate Professor of Social Anthropology in the School of Arts & Social Sciences at Monash University, Malaysia. He is an urban anthropologist who works on the interfaces between cities, religion, civil society and social media. Dr. Yeoh has done fieldwork in Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. He has conducted research among street vendors, squatters, soup kitchens, pilgrims, foreign migrant workers, Japanese retirees, indigenous peoples, and civil society groups on topics ranging from socio-spatial justice, diasporic indigenous identities, everyday interfaith relations, and environmental activism. Seng-Guan is also a Secretariat member of SUARAM, the leading human rights watchdog NGO in Malaysia.

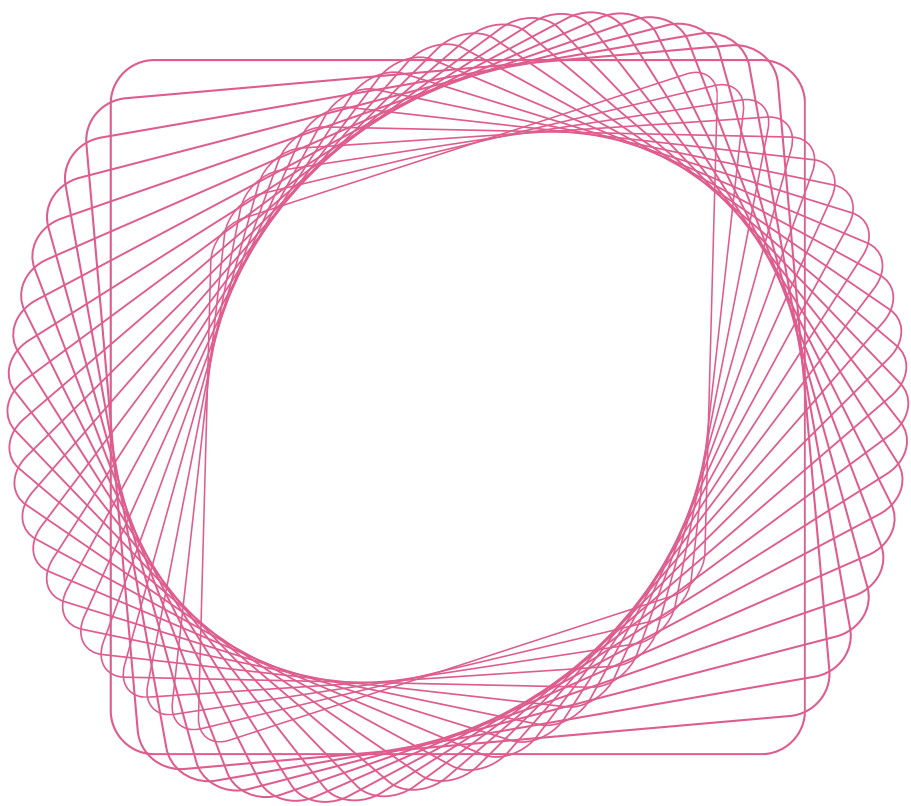
**Yoon-Jeong Shin** is a Research Fellow at the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA). Her research focuses on fertility, family policy, gender, and child welfare policy. She recently participated in the project Strategy for UN 2030 SDGs: Agenda for Socioeconomic Goals and was a co-author of *Research on Education Development Cooperation for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Action Strategies in Basic Education*. She led several projects related to population issues in East Asia, including the Comparative Study of Family Policy in East Asia and the Strategy for Low Fertility of East Asian Countries. She served as a member of the steering committee on Low Fertility and Population Aging of the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Korea. She was recently a project leader of multi-institutional research project called Children with a Migration Background in Korea, which was a collaboration of three affiliated research centers: the Korea Labor Institute, IOM Migration Research and Training Centre, and KIHASA.



**Zhu Hongrui** is a Policy Analyst at the Fudan Development Institute of Fudan University in China. Her research focuses on higher education management and university think tanks. She has been in charge of the Shanghai University think tank alliance and visiting scholar project and has established an extensive network of think tank scholars in Shanghai. Her publications include: Hou Ding kai, Zhu Hongrui (2015), *Education: World Trends and China's World-Class University Initiative: The Map of Global Thought 2016*, and Hou Ding kai, Mao dan, Zhu Hongrui (2016), *The Map of Global Thought 2017*.









**I.**  
**EXECUTIVE REPORT**  
**BANGKOK FORUM 2018**



## I. EXECUTIVE REPORT

BANGKOK FORUM 2018

### Genesis — “Future Sustainable Asia”

The Bangkok Forum was jointly launched and co-hosted by Chulalongkorn University and the Korean Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS) in 2018, as an integrative knowledge platform that was to function via dialogue and action. Joined by several partners from both the local and international level, the Forum tried to encourage the convergence of multi-sectorial experts and professionals and other members of society. In doing so it aimed to facilitate exchanges and collaboration between scholars, public intellectuals, policy makers, practitioners, and other like-minded persons, both from within the country and overseas, who were addressing the question of how to make possible a sustainable Asia.

The timely launch of the Forum under the umbrella theme of “**Future Sustainable Asia**” came into being due to a shared observation by the organizers and partners that attention to the concept of *social sustainability* as a whole has not been systematic or adequate. Rather, sustainability has primarily been discussed from the economic and scientific perspectives, especially in relation to the natural environment. In fact social sustainability is key because it has to do with all the ways in which human beings maintain their connections to each other, to the precious resources of their societies and cultures, and to the entire natural world. When these connections are preserved in a wholesome way, then the members of society are able to act clearly and decisively to maintain or when necessary engender a coherent, diverse, egalitarian, and peaceful social order in which all have access to the resources available. It is precisely the breakdowns in environmental sustainability that put extraordinary pressure on the diverse social ties that allow for flourishing and peaceful societies.

The Forum 2018, therefore, considered it as a challenge to systematically produce and explore relevant forms of knowledge, innovative practices, as well as public activities and policies, by promoting critical deliberation, debate, and opportunities for collaboration on a wide range of topics and issues. The forum sought in particular to address social equality and human dignity, social justice and wellbeing, ecological and climate justice, cultural coexistence, and the transformative role of universities. It also took up a number of other topics including religion and engaged spirituality, habitats and sustainable urbanization, communication and media, the digital knowledge divide, transformative learning and education, human trafficking and labor, work environments and sustainable livelihoods, enterprises and technology, civic engagement and citizen rights. The Bangkok Forum highlighted the role of higher education, as the university is a key institution in sharing responsibility and providing leadership for meaningful and integrated knowledge co-production that contributes to social transformation towards a just and sustainable Asia.



## Forum 2018 “Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability” — Opening Program

Convened under the theme *Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability*, the inaugural Bangkok Forum took place during October 24-25, 2018 at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.



Mr. Park In-kook  
President of Korean Foundation for Advanced Studies



Prof. Dr. Bundhit Eua-arporn  
President of Chulalongkorn University

In their welcome addresses, **Prof. Dr. Bundhit Eua-arporn**, President of Chulalongkorn University and **Mr. Park In-kook**, President of KFAS, articulated the following noteworthy perspectives that helped to set the initial directions and guiding frameworks for the Bangkok Forum:

- Addressing social sustainability requires expanding efforts beyond traditional institutional frameworks.
- The university must play a larger role beyond teaching and researching so as to catalyze change that can address the dire challenges facing our societies.
- Working within existing disciplinary frameworks and approaches is no longer sufficient; we must work outside and beyond single institutions and disciplines, encouraging diverse kinds of interactions between them.
- One of the key challenges in attaining social sustainability is how to harmonize social and individual needs that may often seem mismatched.
- To harness the full potential of people across Asia to build a more sustainable future, it is urgent that we address the acute disparities and inequalities in Asia, which are a result of the continued absence of effective mechanisms and legal frameworks to protect the rights—and draw out the full potentials—of the vulnerable.
- There is a need to transform our fundamental assumptions, modes of thinking, and knowledge production if we are to achieve social sustainability.



## I. EXECUTIVE REPORT

To mark the launch of this novel platform, the Opening Ceremony was graciously presided over by the guest of honor, **Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn**, followed by keynote speeches given by prominent leaders from the region.



Opening Ceremony at the Main Auditorium was attended by more than 800 participants which included Ambassadors from 25 countries.

In addition to her Opening Address, Her Royal Highness gave a keynote speech recognizing the significance of the theme as one that is close to her heart. She spoke on the concerns of sustainable Asia by touching upon her own experiences of visiting rural and disadvantaged areas of Thailand during the 1950-60s while accompanying her parents, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit. “The most important keyword was ‘development,’” she said. Back then development was quite prominently about health—making vaccines available and providing safe water supplies—but also about water supply—irrigation scheme, cloud seeding or rain-making—and other essential support that could improve the day-to-day lives of the people. “Asia was quite different from Asia as we know today” and “The opportunities for collaboration among Asian countries were still limited,” said Her Royal Highness. She emphasized that at present social sustainability must be pursued from knowledge-based and socially-driven perspectives and that there is plenty of opportunity now to learn from each other in Asia. She also argued that arts and culture need to be appreciated mutually and together rather than competitively. This is because “Things of beauty nurtures friendship, and that friendship is the most precious gift for all.” She concluded her observations on social sustainability by proposing that if Asian people could relate well amongst themselves, they would contribute towards a positive and sustainable place for Asia in global relations.

Among the four keynote speakers, three speakers—Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, and Dr. Hongjoo Hahm— delivered their addresses during the Opening Ceremony of Day I, and the fourth speaker, Professor Dr. Nay Htun, at the outset of the Day II. In addressing the participants, all keynote speakers emphasized the urgency of sustainability concerns and the need for integration and coherence in implementation of policies as well as in the actions taken to realize them.



Former Director General of WTO and former Secretary General of UNCTAD, **Dr. Supachai Panitchapakdi**, stated in his speech entitled “Future Governance for Sustainable Asia,” that the challenge of our world is “how to combine economic efficiency, growth and prosperity, enhancement of income



Dr. Supachai Panitchapakdi

and trade, with social justice, fairness in the way we treat people, social protection, networks, and individual liberty.” He highlighted that societies have not become poorer in the past decades, but they have become more unequal, and this can be verified by the rise of the “Gini coefficient” measure. The full dimensions of poverty go beyond inadequate income to encompass poor health, low education/skills, fragile livelihoods, and social exclusion. Meeting sustainability goals are therefore an urgent collective priority of Asia, and they can only be accomplished by addressing all areas of governance—finance, trade, investment, the design of national social protection flows, and so on. Dr. Supachai proposed that while Asia has been active in several efforts for regional economic and financial integration, to complete the economic governance structure for sustainability it is obligatory to include “investment”, since investment is “another side of the trade coin.” This would involve creating, for example, a climate conducive to investment and protecting the public interest, something promoted by the UN. While taking up all these tasks seriously, he reminded that there is also a need to look for a “pathway of creating real satisfaction and sustainable well-being and happiness through Sufficiency Economy principles” while leaving behind the mentality of unlimited conspicuous consumptions.

and trade, with social justice, fairness in the way we treat people, social protection, networks, and individual liberty.” He highlighted that societies have not become poorer in the past decades, but they have become more unequal, and this can be verified by the rise of the “Gini coefficient” measure. The full dimensions of poverty go beyond inadequate income to encompass poor health, low education/skills, fragile livelihoods, and social exclusion. Meeting sustainability goals are therefore an urgent collective priority of Asia, and they can only be accomplished by addressing all areas of governance—finance, trade, investment,

**Dr. Noeleen Heyzer**, the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board Member on Mediation, and Former Under-Secretary General of the UN, stressed that while Asia has made great



Dr. Noeleen Heyzer

progress investing in people-centered development, the resulting prosperity is not shared widely enough and far too many people are still left behind. In her address entitled “*Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable ASEAN*,” she warned that growing economic, social, and political inequalities have become more intertwined than ever, posing grievous threats to our dynamism and social cohesion in Asia. To meet these threats we have to create a new development paradigm that looks at the quality of growth; furthermore, the way we implement development needs to be different. Such a direction would be in line with the ASEAN



## I. EXECUTIVE REPORT

Community Vision 2025, which focuses on building an inclusive, people-centered, and socially responsible ASEAN. To conclude, Dr. Heyzer said “We cannot go on doing business as usual and expect different results. This is hence an urgent call to action for each one of us.” She reminded us of the need to work together from various sectors to leave a better world for our future generations.

**Dr. Hongjoo Hahm**, Officer-in-Charge, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), echoed the emphasis on widening inequalities in the region. In his address



Dr. Hongjoo Hahm

entitled “*The Challenges of SDGs in the Asia Pacific Region*,” he pointed out that inequalities are “being entrenched by climate change and environmental degradation,” as disasters are killing twenty times more people in Asia-Pacific compared to elsewhere. This compromises food security and pushes people back to poverty. The quality of governance can make a meaningful difference in addressing these challenges, but this needs to be worked out together by actors from diverse sectors. Dr. Hahm shared that “Our ambition is for our research to support an intergovernmental consensus that addresses today’s challenges.” He also highlighted the important role Thailand can continue to play, as “Thailand has been central to developing a regional approach to overcoming key challenges to sustainable development,” including sharing its in valuable experience of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, which has much in common with the 2030 SDGs Agenda. Dr. Hahm urged a collective effort to “....return Asia-Pacific’s economies and societies to a sustainable footing” which is essential if the world is to achieve the global 2030 Agenda.



Professor Dr. Nay Htun receiving a token from HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

The fourth keynote speaker, **Professor Dr. Nay Htun**, Founder and Hon. Patron, Green Economy Green Growth Association of Myanmar, argued that a “Transformational Green Paradigm” was “an imperative” for a future sustainable Asia. Through presentation of well-researched data and evidence, he argued for transformative response options, namely: 1) materials transition, 2) behavioral and lifestyle transformation, 3) institutional and governance transformation, and 4) educational transformation. He stated that “sustainability, resiliency, sufficiency, inclusivity, and equity are interconnected” and that they form a continuum that foster inclusivity and equity. A holistic and



integrative approach is imperative to adequately address the threats and enable sustainable, resilient, sufficient, and “smart” outcomes. The parameters are expanding with new concepts, knowledge, and experience. In this light, Prof. Nay Htun stated that educational transformation, especially that of universities, was crucial, as they are “a main source of critical thinking, ideas, innovations, conceptual vigor, quest for knowledge, learning, and human resource development to meet the current and future requirements.”

## Introducing Social Sustainability—Exhibition and Film

Bangkok Forum 2018 organized a modest exhibition introducing selected undertakings that correspond with the Forum’s theme. The idea was to complement in another format the various session discussions. Highlighted were: 1) research by **Prof. Dr. Pasuk Phongpaichit** of the Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, on social inequality; 2) the community support activities of **Dr. Cynthia Maung**, founder/director of Mae Tao Clinic at Thai/Myanmar border, which has been providing healthcare and human rights knowledge to the needy population; 3) *Chao Le* (sea-nomads) community research led by **Dr. Naruemon Arunothai**, Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute, facilitating the indigenous community’s transition in a changing world context; and 4) the “Chula Zero Waste” program, a joint effort by Chulalongkorn University’s Environmental Research Institute, Physical Resources Management Office, and the network of Chula faculties and students. All these projects and research undertakings represented enduring efforts and forms of action to address social sustainability. These efforts and ongoing activities on the part of Chulalongkorn University were also featured in a short film, which was screened at the Opening Ceremony.



Royal viewing of the Exhibition on Social Sustainability.

From the left: Dr. Cynthia Maung, Prof. Supang Chantavanich, Prof. Bundhit Eua-arporn, Prof. Pirongrong Ramasoota. Far right: Prof. Pasuk Phongpaichit.



## I. EXECUTIVE REPORT

A critical shared insight on social sustainability, brought out by both the exhibition and the film, was that education plays a crucial role in empowering citizens who have to tackle old as well as emerging challenges. Education still stands as the most important contributing factor in a long-term vision of social development. Prof. Pasuk emphasized the crucial need to invest in education as well as in social welfare, and called for a serious review of government policy in these two areas. The exhibition received a Royal viewing by HRH Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, and the researchers and community work leaders were then given a precious opportunity to brief Her Royal Highness on their undertakings. Also present was **Prof. Dr. Supang Chantavanich**, a leading authority in Thailand on migration and human trafficking research. Prof. Supang supported Dr. Cynthia Maung in explaining to Her Royal Highness the nature of displaced people's challenges at the border, and clarifying that the Mae Tao Clinic has in fact been addressing the fall-out from the insufficiencies in national or formal support frameworks. The significance and value of Dr. Cynthia Maung's efforts have been recognized by many prestigious international awards, including the Ramon Magsaysay Award and most recently the Roux Prize. In 2005, she was named one of the 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize Nomination.

### Panel Sessions—Insights



A scene from Plenary Session I “Tackling Inequality with Enabling Knowledge in Asian Development”



The Bangkok Forum convened a total of 11 Plenary and Parallel Sessions combined within the two-day timeframe. It invited 59 speakers internationally as well as from Thailand who contributed as presenters, chairs, and discussants. These sessions reflected the breadth of topics and broad range of experience of not only scholars and public intellectuals, but also policy makers, civil society groups, community-based associations, government entities, academic institutions, corporate entities, development partners, and foundations. At the same time, chairs and discussants were asked to highlight the role of higher education in achieving the goals of social sustainability, as critical scrutiny and transformation of this role was an important focus of the Forum.

One of the issues highlighted by all four keynote speakers was the increasing inequality in the region. Similarly, the plenary session *Tackling Inequality with Enabling Knowledge in Asian Development* addressed the issue of whether inequality matters and why. This session presented the view that unequal societies struggle to gain the social consensus to pursue the right policies, and consequently have more conflict and turmoil that disrupts economic prosperity. Inequality is the principal factor underlying the political instability and disorders of recent years, therefore it is very “costly” to live with inequality. Panel members stressed that there is a need for a strong political will to address inequalities and to achieve sustainable development. However, this political will needs to direct action towards respect for human rights and tackling structural elements, as it is clear that poverty reduction efforts alone do not address inequality. Panel members emphasized the need to ensure citizens’ participation to achieve the quality of life envisioned in the UN 2030 Agenda. Also essential was to respect the transformative perspective that values citizens’ voice, thus formally creating space for their meaningful contribution to decision making as well. Active participation by corporate sectors exemplified in the Circular Economy concept was also noted as a way of promoting ethical and responsible production and consumption.

In short, simplification and unidirectional action will not be sufficient to address the diverse and complex vulnerabilities and needs surrounding inequality. The plenary concluded that addressing those disparities demands work across fields and scales, the exploration of multifaceted and nuanced solutions, collaboration across disciplines, and the development of meaningful networks for exchanging knowledge.

Inequality as well as waves of globalization and other complex phenomena throughout the region are giving rise to social injustice. Possible interdisciplinary solutions and reforms under the broad umbrella of social justice policy were discussed in the plenary session *Challenges of Social Justice in Asia*. As a result of rapid modernization, urbanization and industrialization, a new set of crises are emerging in the region. Plenary session speakers discussed the relevance of mainstreaming a discourse of social value and quality, which could lead to concrete measures and socially responsible investments designed to reduce inequality and empower individuals. Speakers pointed out that from the judicial point of view, there is a strong need to advocate people-oriented justice reform. This is against the old practice of primarily power-oriented reform, which tended to focus on aspects such as control, logistics, and hierarchies.



## I. EXECUTIVE REPORT



Plenary Session II.

From the left: Prof. Yee Jaeyeol, Prof. Imtiaz Ahmed, Hon. Dr. Suntariya Muangpawong

Such a move requires addressing the reform of law and policy more broadly so as to introduce a new culture of justice and democratic values. Oftentimes cultural relativism is used as a shield against the translation of and use of basic, fundamental human rights norms in the region. Yet there is in fact no inevitable tension between individual versus collective rights that would make the human rights concept incompatible with local culture. Human rights are designed to protect both the individual and the community, while group sustainability and prosperity necessitate the protection of individual rights.

The parallel session, *Development of a Framework for the Local Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, discussed the role of the community in social sustainability. In sharing several case studies from around the region, panelists argued that it is imperative that the 17 SDGs in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development be translated into actions undertaken by local communities. They noted that while methodologies may differ from case to case, in fact learning is taking place for everyone involved, including government officials, students, parents, and the researchers themselves. This is a state of affairs that can contribute to participatory and action-based teaching and learning with a focus on reflection and action. The panelists reminded participants that research and education should lead to service to the community, and that multi-stakeholder engagement and embedding local values into the localization of SDGs are important.

In some cases a plenary and parallel session explored closely overlapping themes, as with the plenary entitled *The University and Public Engagement: Transgressive Learning and Action*, and the parallel





A scene from Parallel Session 1

“Crises of Sustainability in ASEAN: Urgent Proposals for Creative Institutionalization of Transformative Learning”

session entitled *Crises of Sustainability in ASEAN: Urgent Proposals for Creative Institutionalization of Transformative Learning*. The plenary session looked at different ways in which the university on the one hand and citizen, community, or activist groups on the other have interacted, collaborated, and contributed to each other's and/or to a larger societal learning process. For example, in the case of the Fukushima Radiation Disaster, civil society movements played a role in explaining the disaster in lay people's terms and establishing proper channels of communication with affected areas, something that universities failed to do in spite of the high respect with which they are regarded. The presenter made proposals on possible collaboration between these two kinds of organizations based on the real challenges and conditions they face. Another presenter talked about how he had been able to take initiative through the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia (RILCA) at Mahidol University to collaborate with ethnic minority groups across Asia to help revitalize their endangered languages and cultures. Two other presenters highlighted the ways in which non-university actors in their respective countries enabled genuine and effective forms of pedagogy through integration with ordinary people and everyday life practices. For the parallel session, its three speakers outlined innovative and concrete proposals for meeting the complex crises emerging now, through 1) study trips that took relatively well-to-do students of Monash University Malaysia to interact with diverse communities around Asia; 2) an English and leadership program, the School of English for Engaged Social Service (SENS), which was designed to meet the needs of English training, a deep understanding of contemporary crises, and leadership qualities within a single program; and 3) the establishment of a trans-disciplinary program to break out of traditional silos in the form of the Centre for Humanities and Compassion Studies at Xavier University in Bhubaneswar, India.

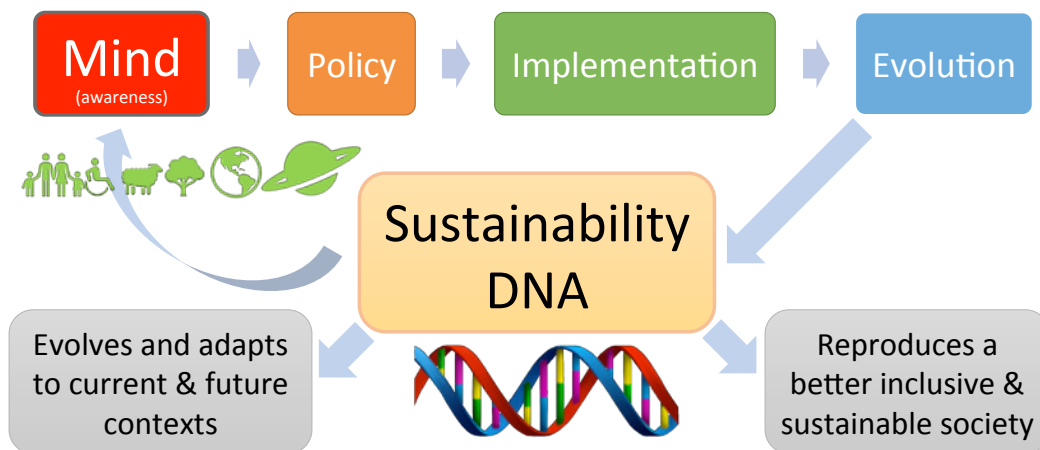


## I. EXECUTIVE REPORT

### YouthQuake

YouthQuake was designed as a special session to bring out the unique perspectives and concerns of young adults with regard to the growing issues of social sustainability that their generation will have to face head-on. In the YouthQuake session, all presenters emphasized that a key to sustainability is each individual's mindset, heart, and attitudes. Therefore, fostering social sustainability is about nurturing people and educating the heart. To translate this, one presenter shared the idea of "Sustainability DNA" (see diagram below).

*"Structures and systems can be destroyed overnight, but our **sustainability DNA** will reproduce a **society that includes everyone and protects the planet and the universe.**"*



The presenter argued that social structure and/or system, no matter how well-built or well-thought out, can be dismantled overnight or over time. But "Sustainability DNA" will stay because it will become part of each person, and it is the person who will contribute to nurturing a society that is inclusive (including disability), just and sustainable, a society that would protect the planet and the universe. Another key articulation was the importance of inter-generational conversation and multi-sectoral dialogue. Such forms of dialogue encourage in each person a chance to "exercise citizenship." This is not meant in a legal sense but in a sense defined by our new context, in which each person will be motivated to participate in creating a better society, making positive change to the world. Another presenter shared that her efforts have been practical, providing rural youth with access to alternative education, training them to become facilitators and motivators for serving the community. All felt that human development is the most important challenge of our time, and that youth can be significant agents for change. Education has





“YouthQuake”

From the left: Dr. Carl Middleton, Ms. Chanthalangsy Sisouvanh, Ms. Paulista Surjadi

a big potential in this sense. However, we now live in a non-lineal world where information and knowledge come from multiple sources. We need to recognize that education or knowledge production does not always take place through formal education.

## The Way Forward

At the concluding plenary session, a small ad hoc panel was created to wrap up the Bangkok Forum 2018 and take note of key themes for ongoing work. Co-convened by **Prof. Dr. Pirongrong Ramasoota**, Vice President for Social Outreach and Global Engagement (Bangkok Forum Project Director), and **Prof. Surichai Wun’Gaeo**, Director of the Peace and Conflict Studies Center (Bangkok Forum Academic Sub-Committee Chair), the panel invited two representatives from among the participants, namely **Prof. Dr. Tae Yong Jung**, Director of the Research Center for Global Sustainability in Yonsei University of Korea, and **Madame Lahpai Seng Raw**, Founder and Director of Metta Development Foundation, Myanmar.

This panel aimed to articulate an overall sense of what Bangkok Forum 2018 had brought out, and more importantly to envision a future direction for the Bangkok Forum that could be taken up in



## I. EXECUTIVE REPORT



From the left:

Prof. Surichai Wun'Gaeo, Prof. Pirongrong Ramasoota, Mdme Lahpai Seng Raw, Prof. Tae Yong Jung

a spirit of solidarity. The latter was especially crucial as the Forum's ambition, as a regional platform, was to enable collaborators and partners to implement relevant action towards a sustainable Asia in a creative way, building upon the exchange of knowledge that had taken place through the conference dialogue and interaction.

Formulation of a "Statement of Action" was part of the preparation for such ongoing collaborations. A statement of this kind had been proposed and discussed since the time of the pre-Forum meetings in which partners and collaborators had participated. A draft was then worked out at the secretariat level in consultation with several resource persons in the region, and was made available at the website portal for open access. While noting positive feedback, several concrete additional inputs from participants were incorporated into the revision and were presented at the wrap-up session. The Statement attempted to define "social sustainability" in a meaningful way, what kind of values the Bangkok Forum respects, and what modalities of action may be generated ahead (see the full text that follows this report). Prof. Pirongrong emphasized that organizers are hoping that the Bangkok Forum will become an evolving platform, saying "we would like this to be a spring board, reimagining institutional ecology for change."

Madam Lahpai shared that she would like to see a pragmatic approach to our work ahead, and that her concern includes especially the challenges of inter-connectivity in the age of the Internet, which oftentimes aggravates social polarization. She shared that, "we are witnessing the new cultural and political



battles are being fought via media and Internet, and a key objective of future social, political, and community research and networking must support a culture of reliability, trust, and informed exchange that reaches to all peoples so that best-case scenarios are developed.” She also reminded participants that migration and refugees are huge issues of our times and need to be highlighted.

Prof. Tae shared his observations on two features of the Forum that impressed him. Firstly, he was impressed with the organizers’ advance preparations in creating the Statement of Action, which was beyond the expectation of a normal gathering or conference. Secondly, he appreciated the emphasis on taking an action-oriented approach. Looking back on his own related experience he observed that “important SDGs guidelines were to be not just action-oriented but to be action and policy-oriented, therefore we may add a focus on the policy element in the next round of discussions.” He also noted that another challenge of our time is IT, or the post-industrial revolution, which could be addressed at future Bangkok Forums. Rather than the usual technical aspects approach, he said that Bangkok Forum could address the issues via social aspects—in terms of institutional arrangements, frameworks, education, and so on, adding that enhancing the productivity of human capital is a key contribution to development in the region.

The challenge of transformative change in knowledge production presents a clear opportunity. It opens the door to innovation, new ideas, and new paradigms. Prof. Pirongrong closed the Bangkok Forum 2018 by thanking all participants and partners. She stated that “this is a starting point of this platform with a long way to go” but there is now enhanced connectedness with agencies, programs, and various undertakings. Chulalongkorn University looks forward to providing channels for further collaboration among institutions and individuals of diverse backgrounds working for social sustainability.

December 10, 2018

Michiko Yoshida and Theodore Mayer

#### **Post Script:**

While it is beyond the ability of the authors of this report to fully cover and/or narrate and record the rich and extensive content of the activities that constituted the Bangkok Forum 2018, the purpose of this report is to share some highlights of the Forum with readers, by putting together selected insights from the event as well as from the surrounding discussions. It mainly represents therefore the authors’ personal observations and interpretations of some of the key issues brought out in the Forum, taking advantage of their participation in the making of the Forum in a number of capacities. In writing this report, the authors would like to express sincere appreciation to Dr. Andrea R. Torre on Plenary Session I, Miss Julie Hunter on Plenary Session II, Mr. Mahesh Admankar on Plenary Sessions I and V, Prof. Dr. Mario Tabucanon on Parallel Session 2, and Dr. Carl Middleton on the YouthQuake session, for contributing their session discussion summaries, which served as invaluable inputs to this report.

\*\*\*\*\* End of the report\*\*\*\*\*



## I. EXECUTIVE REPORT

# Statement of Action: Bangkok Forum for a Sustainable Asia

October 25, 2018

### Why the Bangkok Forum?

The heightening challenges of economic inequality, social disparity and injustices, political violence, environmental degradation, unsustainable lifestyles, and habitat and biodiversity destruction are all interconnected and creating new crises for Asian societies. The deadly consequences of climate breakdown make it clear that our fossil fuel-driven economies must change. There is a growing awareness and sense of urgency that if these challenges are to be met, global and regional realities caused by unsustainable development require more critical analysis and understanding. We therefore gather here at the Bangkok Forum 2018 to forge new partnerships for a Sustainable Asia.

### Social Sustainability Requires Greater Attention

Sustainability has largely been framed in ecological, economic, and technological terms. Yet *social* sustainability is equally important: how can our relationships with one another, our relationships with nature, and our values progress and thrive? We need to transform our fundamental assumptions, modes of thinking, and knowledge production. Creating social sustainability requires respecting and promoting the many dimensions of human values—including equity, diversity, the quality of both physical and spiritual life, access to democracy and governance institutions, and a culture of respect, dialogue, and peace.

### What is the Bangkok Forum?

Bangkok Forum is an evolving platform for knowledge co-creation, dialogue, civic engagement, and action. It aspires to be a hub for networking ideas, people, and innovations to help create a Sustainable Asia. Such a mission requires a re-imagining of institutional ecologies. It cannot be achieved in academic settings alone. The university must play a larger role beyond teaching and researching, by catalyzing change to address the dire challenges facing our societies. Those within and outside the academe must foster interaction leading to progressive change. This mission cannot be achieved by working within existing frameworks and approaches, which are largely the outcomes of the very problems we need to overcome.

### Principles

- The Bangkok Forum **respects the diversity of cultures, ideas, and concerns in Asian societies**, and will strive to actively engage a wide range of stakeholders, including scholars, public intellectuals, policy makers, civil society groups, community-based associations, government entities, academic institutions, corporate entities, development partners, and foundations.
- The Bangkok Forum recognizes that a sustainable future requires a diversity of solutions and pathways.
- The Bangkok Forum encourages innovative solutions to the social dimensions of sustainable development challenges.
- The Bangkok Forum **respects the right of future generations to meaningful life, enjoying freedom, dignity, and religious and civic rights**. To address this very fundamental principle, the Bangkok Forum specifically promotes the participation of younger generations in building a Sustainable Asia.



## Moving forward

In launching the Bangkok Forum today, we commit to work toward a Sustainable Asia. To do this, we will take the following steps:

- Encourage the **co-creation of knowledge, collaborative initiatives, and actions** supporting individuals and institutions working together for a Sustainable Asia through research, training, and policy engagement.
- Actively cooperate with existing platforms and movements to build social and cultural support for a Sustainable Asia.
- Conduct appropriate capacity and capability building programs.
- Strengthen existing courses on sustainability and develop new sustainability curricula including trans-disciplinary and transformative approaches.
- Develop global citizenship and leadership courses for sustainability.
- Provide participatory action research opportunities.
- Advocate relevant policy changes.

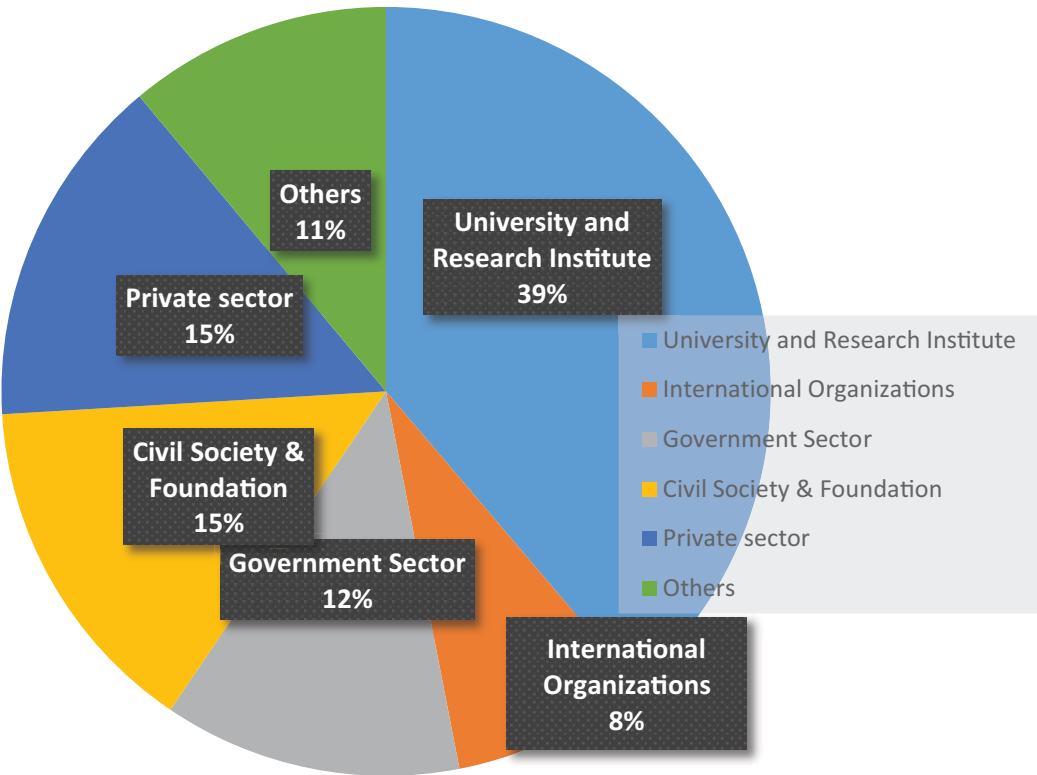
\*\*\*\*\**End of the document*\*\*\*\*\*



I. EXECUTIVE REPORT

PARTICIPATION DATA: BANGKOK FORUM 2018

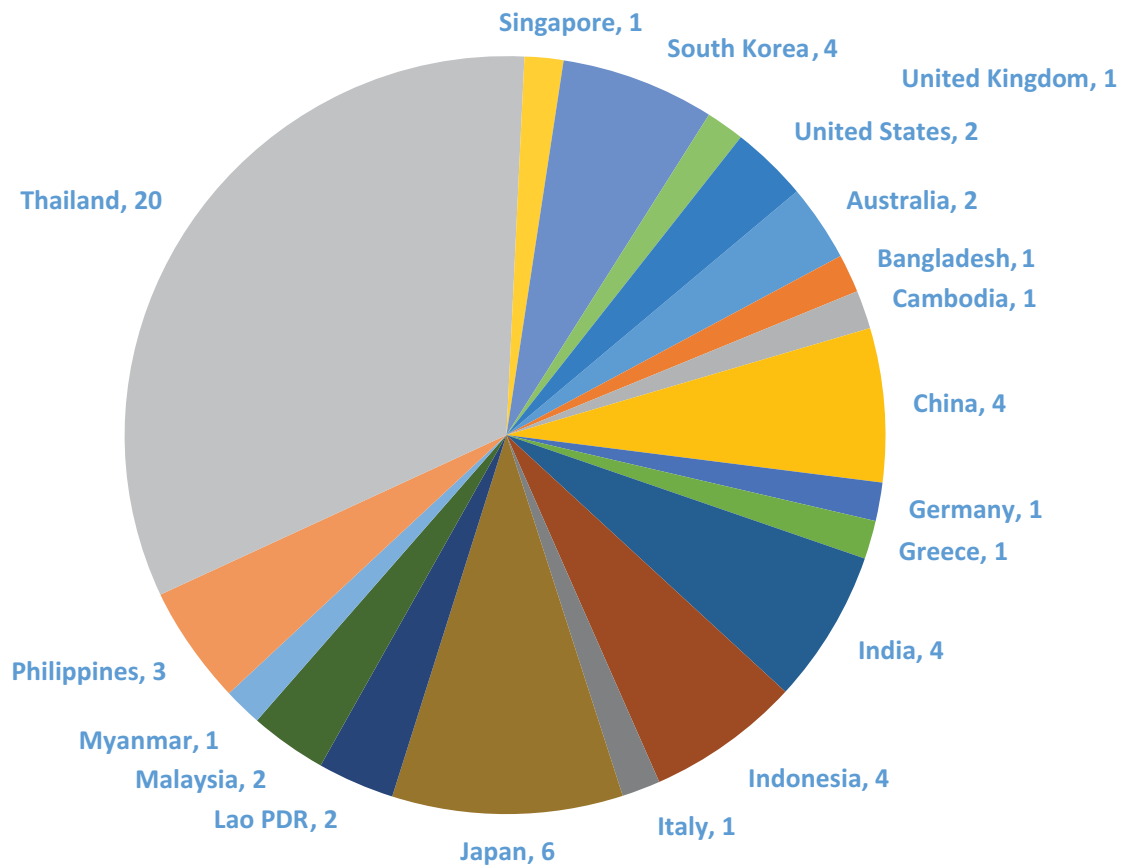
Participants by Sector



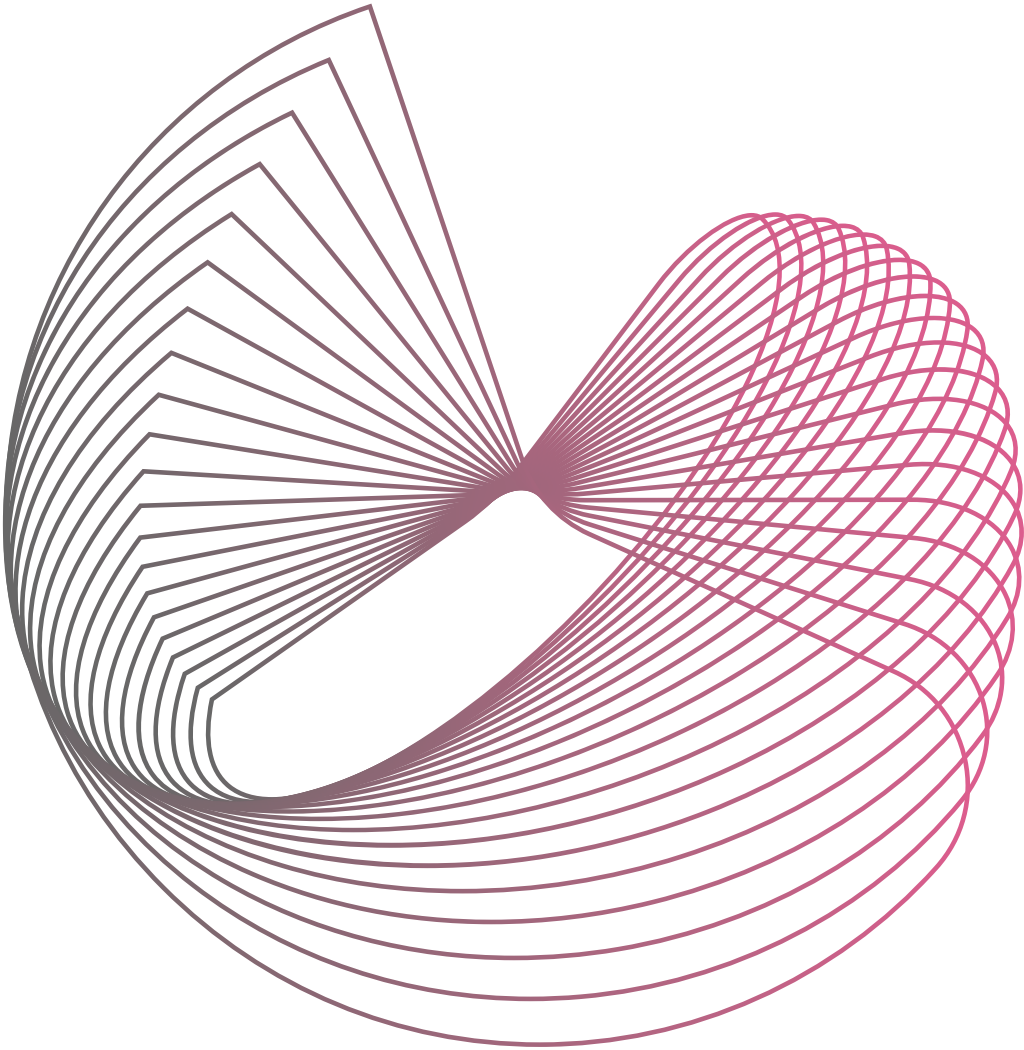


**PARTICIPATION DATA: BANGKOK FORUM 2018**

Speakers' country of origin









## II. OPENING ADDRESS

### Guest of Honor: Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Excellencies,  
Professors,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

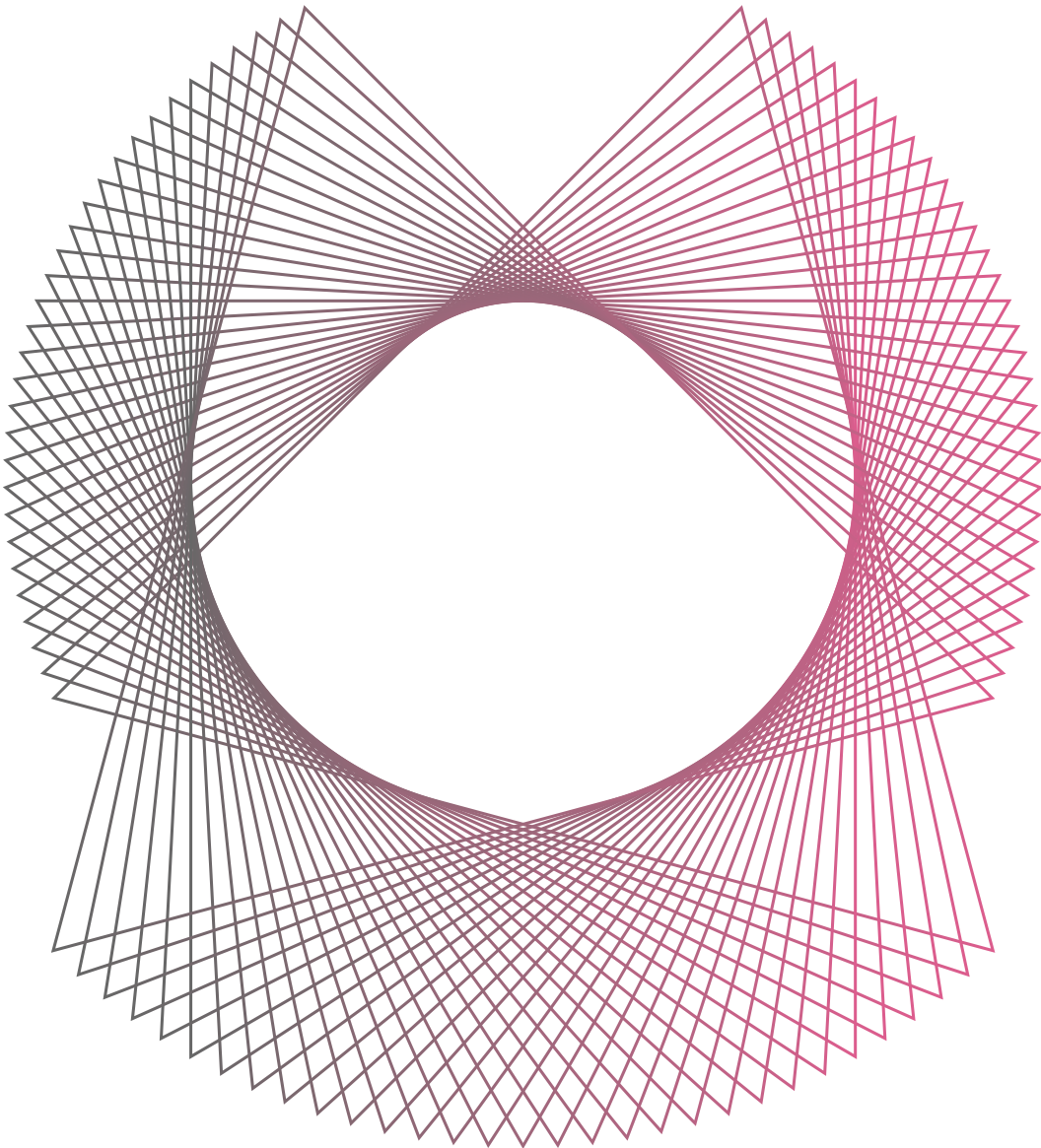
It is my great pleasure to address this notable gathering at the opening of the Bangkok Forum 2018. The Forum's theme, "Future Sustainable Asia," and this year's special focus on "Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability," are most pertinent and timely given that some of the most pressing concerns in the region are social injustice, widening inequality and divisive and polarized conflicts that could lead to violence and even annihilation.

An important part of the role of universities is to conduct research and not only to expand humanity's knowledge and prompt technological advancement but also to find ways of tackling issues that threaten society's well-being. However, to overcome these challenges requires a concerted effort from different groups. I am delighted to see in this forum speakers and participants from diverse backgrounds — from academia to the public and private sectors and civil society — coming together to share a common platform in order to transform concepts of social sustainability and put them into practice at different levels and in various aspects.

I am certain that this forum will provide a great opportunity for researchers, decision-makers and other stakeholders to evolve ways of tackling the challenges ahead and help shape a more sustainable future not only for the Asian region but also for the world and humankind in general.

I commend Chulalongkorn University and the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies for their efforts in organizing this highly significant event. I wish you every success in your deliberations and now declare the Bangkok Forum 2018 open.







### III. WELCOME ADDRESSES

#### President Bundhit Eua-arporn, Chulalongkorn University

Your Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Chulalongkorn University and all the collaborators, I would like to humbly express our gratitude to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn for her gracious acceptance to preside over the Bangkok Forum 2018.

This inaugural event is a result of the collaboration between Chulalongkorn University and the vision and generous support of the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS), represented today by its President, Mr. Park In-kook. Together with several esteemed partners who have contributed in their various roles, we hope to see the Bangkok Forum become a regional platform that will advance the mission of building a “Future Sustainable Asia” under this year’s special focus “Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability.”

I believe that this mission is a shared mission. And that is why through this new initiative, we are here to develop collaboration—dialogue and action—across our region. Such a mission cannot be achieved through academic settings alone. The university must play a larger role beyond teaching and researching, catalyzing change to address the dire challenges that face our societies. We must work outside single institutions, encouraging interaction that will lead to concrete changes realizing that such a mission also cannot be achieved by working within the existing disciplinary frameworks and approaches. Sustainability has in the past been framed in scientific and economic terms. Yet social sustainability—the ability of our relationships with each other, our relationships with nature, and our connection to a set of values to withstand pressures and thrive—must also be considered. In other words, we need to transform our fundamental assumptions, modes of thinking, and knowledge production to achieve social sustainability. Universities play an integral role in this endeavor, and I am thankful that Chulalongkorn University, situated as it is in the regional hub of Bangkok, can offer its contribution. It merits notice that this social project could not have materialized without the strong support of many partners that are present here today. I am deeply grateful to you all.

It is our hope that participants will discover and share thought-provoking ideas and new perspectives so as to create new pathways of collaboration that will not only fortify their efforts to serve the public, but will, through engagement and solidarity, generate a deepening drive and further action toward achieving a future sustainable Asia.

May it please Your Royal Highness.



### III. WELCOME ADDRESSES

## President Park In-kook, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies

Your Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn,  
President Bundhit Eua-arporn,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honor for Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies to cohost the Bangkok Forum with Chulalongkorn University under the overarching theme, “Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability.” On behalf of my Foundation, I wish to express my deep gratitude to Your Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn for your blessing and to all distinguished participants for attending this august conference.

Even though the Bangkok Forum is being launched for the first time this year, the collaboration between Chulalongkorn University and our foundation goes back sixteen years. In 2002, through a shared understanding of the need to promote research and academic exchange in the Asian region, our two institutions co-established the Asia Research Center at Chulalongkorn University to support research and academic activities of Thai scholars here in Bangkok. I am deeply heartened to witness that this cooperation has led to numerous outstanding research projects with meaningful outcomes and scientific breakthroughs, eventually launching today’s Bangkok Forum. I believe this Forum will serve as an influential platform and epicenter to stimulate dialogue and action in solidarity for a better future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year’s theme invites us to contemplate the meaning of “social sustainability,” pointing to the ability of a community to develop processes and structures which meet the needs of current and future generations.

You would agree that over recent decades, dynamism in the region of Asia and the Pacific has served as a powerhouse for global economic growth and effectively helped lift millions of people out of absolute poverty.

However, we are still faced with challenges posed by acute disparities and inequalities resulting from the continued absence of effective mechanisms and legal frameworks to protect the rights of the vulnerable.



During the incessant various global crises that began in 2008, the international community was struck with a great and sour lesson that the vulnerable are hit the hardest in times of crisis. On top of that, rapid economic growth has also led to environmental degradation and a crisis of climate change which in turn most critically affect the disadvantaged.

It is high time for us to harness the full potential of people across Asia to build a more sustainable future.

As you may all be aware, the Forum Objectives include “generating new ideas and exploring means in transforming sustainability concepts into practice at policy and other crucial levels of implementation and action.”

The challenge is, how do we harmonize social and individual needs that are seemingly mismatched? What is the role of public institutions, civil society and private business sectors to meet such individual and social demands in more effective ways?

My foundation strongly hopes that this Forum will be an invaluable platform to discuss what the current generation should do in order to achieve social sustainability for the next generation and to find practical solutions and actions.

Finally, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Chulalongkorn University and President Eua-arporn for organizing this extraordinary gathering of specialists and opinion leaders, as well as their impeccable preparation for this wonderful academic feast in Bangkok. Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies will remain a sustainable and reliable partner in this common, noble effort.

Thank you. *Khob khun krab.*



#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

### Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was born Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn Debaratanasuda to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King Rama IX, and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand. She has rendered public service continuously since her early youth while devoting her time to scholarly and academic pursuits. Due to her work and dedication, on the occasion of the 50th Birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 5 December 1977, His Majesty the King conferred the Royal title of *Somdech Phra Debaratanarajasuda Chao Fa Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Rathasimagunakornpiyajat Sayamboromrajakumari* upon her.

The principle of using education as a means for community and social development, which Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has acquired during her doctoral studies together with her former experiences in the field, has served as a solid base for her subsequent involvement in community development activities. These efforts and achievements have not only been known among the Thai people, but also by people from around the world. One of her active roles is patronage of many humanitarian charities, philanthropic foundations and organizations, which were founded by her initiatives or for public service. For this she has received overwhelming recognition nationally and internationally in the form of honorary doctorate degrees and numerous awards, including the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service in 1991, the International Education Leadership Award from the University of Pennsylvania, the Indira Gandhi Prize in 2004, and the distinguished Padma Bhushan Award in 2017.



## Keynote Speech

### Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Good morning everyone. Thank you very much for inviting me to expound some thoughts about sustainable Asia. Since I was a little kid, in the fifties and the beginning of sixties, Asia was quite different from Asia we know today. In the wake of the Second World War and the abrupt change of world order to the Cold War world order, during that time, my parents visited some Asian countries, but not as many countries as I do now. The opportunities for collaboration among Asian countries were still limited. Later when we have ASEAN, relations have been closer. I followed my parents and observed their development work in Thai rural areas.

At that time, the most important keyword was development, which means making the areas better. People who lived in those areas should be happier and live better. Development is an integrated work, with many issues to be addressed. Firstly, **health**: preventive work such as providing vaccine against diseases, treatments of communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases. We produced serum to treat poisonous snake bites. Secondly, **water supply**, for drinking, household use, agriculture and industry, irrigation schemes, cloud seeding or rain-making is very important. Agriculture was another important aspect. Apart from irrigation, what we should improve are such as the soil condition, the seed, the sapling condition and knowledge, of course. Agro-processing, agro-industry and marketing, we have cooperatives, which, we can see, is the art of working together. Other countries may have micro-credit banks, but in Thailand we use mostly the cooperative system.

The second important keyword that appears in the topic of this forum is **knowledge**. My parents set up and supported schools and universities of all levels. We give scholarships to students to further their studies in the country and abroad. They supported researchers. There have also been schools for people with disabilities. They supported many types of vocational schools and trainings. There is quite an interesting aspect of education which we still have until now, that is *Phradabos* or 'hermit' school. We think that in former times, in Thai stories, the people from the city used to go to the forest to study with a hermit or local sage, often lived in the forest, where we learned all sorts of arts and sciences. But now, not as much forest left, and all the knowledgeable people stay in the urban areas. These modern hermits would like to teach and continue giving knowledge to younger people. Then the younger people can go to them. And we have the foundation that looks after the hermits and their students so that the hermits can give out knowledge. The hermits have to be kind to the students, and the students, with gratitude, look after the hermits well. And the system is doing fine now. A lot of people gain knowledge. Some of the people have no opportunity to study in the system. They can gain knowledge from here, and they have good work with the help of the companies that hire them. Then they can live and give out and work more for society. We also set up schools in remote areas, we have encyclopedia for youngsters, and we have the system of distance learning through satellite.



#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

The important part is to promote literacy. Some people have already been in school, in the compulsory education, but later they did not have the opportunity to use their knowledge, to read and to write, and then they forgot. I remember that in former times we still did not have non-formal education. The Ministry of Education had some programs; for example, people could study through the mail, or they could study with people who had knowledge. But, in those days I remember my mother inviting some people, like fishermen to come, and she taught them. I heard some of her staff also helped teaching them not to forget how to read and write. If people can read and write, they will not be cheated, or they will have the opportunity to read the materials that the officials send to them. They can learn some arts of living and how to do things. I have read about integrated knowledge from *The Lancet*, a medical journal. This article was published in 2010 about education of health professionals for 21st century. The main idea states that this century is different from the former century. Medical education that we followed, the courses were designed even in early 20th century. And now we need some new ideas about this century. That is to say, the production of health is knowledge-based and socially-driven. The knowledge should be integrated. Patients and communities should be listened to. We train health professionals as 'knowledge brokers'; they are the key drivers of health towards forward movement.

The third keyword is **international cooperation** and **sharing**. From time to time, especially during the trips when my parents visited the northern part of the country, on the mountains, sometimes ambassadors were invited to visit these projects. Most of them had ideas and donated crop seeds, animals, farm equipment from their countries, and we had cooperation for a long time. Now, a lot of people in those areas have become quite well-to-do, with the use of the seeds and the system that was provided for them.

The fourth keyword is **sustainable** or, if it is a noun, **sustainability**. These are words that I have heard a long time ago. Knowledge does not come only from experts or people from outside the community who undertake the rural development work, and it is for younger generation of experts to continue their work. There must be the knowledgeable local sages, who have knowledge that they have acquired from their forefathers and from their own experiences, and teach younger generation the art of working. The land itself has to be sustainable. Farmers should be able to use it for generations. The quality of soil should still be fine.

I am lucky that I have the opportunity to learn from older generation of experts from various agencies and local wisdom, not only to use the integrated knowledge, that is, education, health, agriculture, etc. to improve the well-being of fellow Thai people. We are in the age of globalization or Asianization. We have to gain knowledge and new techniques from our Asian friends. We have projects such as exchanging youth from other Asian countries. Youth who came gave many pieces of good advice to us. They got from us experiences and some of our knowledge. Apart from that, we have exchanges between professionals and scientists. We also have cultural activities together. Recently, I met a watercolor painter. Not only painting, he has taken some officials who work with the cultural affairs to see world heritage places in ASEAN countries



so that we know how to deal with, how to look after these heritage places in our own country. We get some new ideas. UNESCO promotes registration of tangible and intangible heritage, which causes rows between countries. Every country claims ownership of cultural heritage. In fact, art and culture should be admired together. Things of beauty nurture friendship, and friendship is the most precious gift for all.

In Thailand, I have my own nutrition program for almost forty years and also work in other ten Asian countries. We integrate the knowledge of education, health, hygiene, sanitation, nutrition, agriculture and home industry for the benefits of schools and community. I have the opportunity to send our scientists and students to work with fellow Asian countries in many projects, for example, Arctic expedition, radio astronomy, neutrino observatory, nursing, rehabilitation, engineering, assistive technology, etc. If we interact well among ourselves Asian people, we will set well sustainable Asia's place in global relations.

Thank you.



#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

### Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi

Supachai Panitchpakdi's career has spanned wide-ranging areas, starting off as an officer of the Bank of Thailand, he became Deputy Finance Minister, Commerce Minister, and twice Deputy Prime Minister. In between he assumed for some years the presidency role of a commercial bank, and chairman of several private corporations including an international insurance company. His international career is noteworthy for the fact that he is the first representative of the developing countries to be appointed Director General of the World Trade Organisation (2002-2005) and follows that up with two terms as Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2005-2013). At present he is a board member of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin and a founding member of the Asia-New Zealand Foundation. He is on the government's National Strategic Committee and is the Honorary Chairman of Central Pattana (CPN), the Central Group.



## Future Governance for Sustainable Asia

Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi

Your Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, with your kind permission.

Excellences,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sometime ago I was searching for some sources of inspiration for sustainability governance and I came across a speech that was made by one of the world's greatest economists of some time ago, John Maynard Keynes. Lord Keynes, in a speech in Manchester in 1926, said "the political problem of mankind is to combine three things: economic efficiency, social justice, and individual liberty." This remains a very crucial remark although it was made so many decades ago. How can we combine economic efficiency, growth and prosperity, enhancement of income, and trade with social justice, fairness in the way we treat people, social protection, network, and individual liberty.

Many social scientists and environmentalists these days are convinced that economic growth in itself is the fundamental problem of environmental harm as we see it today, in climate change, and therefore resulting in the short-changing of sustainability.

It is timely that particularly this year, the Nobel prizes in economics were awarded to two prominent economists, Professors William Nordhaus and Paul Romer. These two professors have dedicated their life's work to try to better understand the invisible and sometimes ineffable causes and consequences of growth. We should learn from their approach and carefully examine the implications of economic growth, not only in terms of economic prosperities, but also in terms of social welfare and the environment.

So, despite seven decades of reasonable economic growth—sometimes strong, sometimes less strong—that followed the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, access to adequate social protection, benefits, and services, remains a privilege afforded only to relatively few people. According to the International Labor Office, more than 5 billion people, or 75 percent of the world's population, are not covered by adequate social security. According to the World Bank, still more than 700 million people live on less than 1.90 US dollars per day. More than 30 percent of the global population does not have access to adequate sanitation, and 800 million people lack access to adequate sources of drinking water.

While globalization has been a source of opportunities for those able to seize them, it has left many unprotected against new global challenges and transformations that are having deep repercussions at national and local levels, particularly in Asia. The persistence of such large numbers of excluded persons represents a tremendous squandering of human and economic potential.



#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

As Asian societies age, disenfranchised people will weigh even more heavily on the Asian societies in the context of accelerated demographic aging, in countries with low coverage of pension and health systems.

Above all, poverty is not just simply about having a low income. The dimensions of poverty go far beyond inadequate income to also encompass poor health and nutrition, low education and skills, fragile livelihoods, bad housing conditions, and social exclusion. All these multi-dimensional facets of sustainable livelihoods become over-burdening with the increase in frequency of natural disasters.

Added to global climate change are the already painful sufferings of those who are excluded from any forms of protection. Charles Dickens, in describing the world after the first industrial revolution, said, “it was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Such a description also depicts, I believe, the situation in Asia after the 1997-1998 crisis. Asia has certainly made significant strides forward in material terms. We have been able to reduce the number of poverty-stricken people by hundreds of millions. We have constructed sprawling urban centers in large numbers, much larger than in the rest of the world. We have been successful in reducing our external debts while accumulating the largest international reserves pools in the world. In spite of the middle-income status of Asian countries, we have been able to transcend the status to become net exporters of capital to the rest of the world. Some of us, like China, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand have been successful in offering more outbound investment, rather than being mere receivers of incoming foreign direct investment.

However, in the areas of sustainability, Asia’s performance may have been a bit uneven, to use a very diplomatic term. We have been reasonably successful in containing deforestation, but we have not been able to manage usage of water resources in the most efficient manner. The level of literacy rates have increased satisfactorily, but the mismatch of jobs and education is still spreading and eroding the usefulness of traditional curricula and education. We have already begun to adopt firm targets in utilizing and increasing our share of renewable energy, but this remains quite limited to only a few countries and the harnessing of supposedly clean hydro-electric power is plagued by all sorts of environmental drawbacks.

A few years ago, the Asian Development Bank commissioned a study called “Asia 2050: Realizing the Asian Century.” It concluded that the Asian century scenario is plausible, but it is not preordained. It warned of obstacles including rising inequality, environmental degradation, changing demographics, and inadequate governance. Particularly, increasing wealth and income gaps have been some of the most intractable challenges of mankind, in spite of the exponential advances in technology or maybe partly, because of the unmanaged disruptive forces unleashed by rapid technological advances.

Across Asia, the so-called “Gini coefficient,” which is a commonly used measure of inequality, has been on the rise. Societies have not become poorer, but more unequal. During the past two decades, the Gini coefficient for Asia as a whole has increased from 0.39 to 0.46, whereby 0 indicates full equality and 1 indicates absolute inequality. As the number rises toward 1, we are seeing expanding income gap.



In 1999, over 1 billion people lived on less than 1.90 US dollars per day. In the last few years, this number has dropped by more than one-half, which is a great achievement, but we are not out of the woods yet; six countries in Asia, mainly Bangladesh, the People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines, accounted for more than half of the measured poverty across the world. These are countries normally considered to be at the level of middle income. So absolute poverty exists not only in poverty-stricken countries, but also in middle income countries.

Meeting sustainability goals are therefore an urgent collective priority of Asia. Our future governance for a sustainable Asia must measure up to this daunting challenge by covering all key areas of finance, trade and investment, and also particularly and very crucially, the design of national social protection flows.

With regard to finance, finance in itself could be a source of troubles and un-sustainability, as we have seen with the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis and more recently with the 2008-2009 great global recession. However, finance can also be a force of good, by enabling investment in renewable energy sources, water management systems, reforestation, health and education, to mention just a few crucial factors. The Official Development Assistance, or the ODA, to Asia has unfortunately stagnated for some time, as donor industrial countries' own financial resources are thinning due to domestic economic crises. So, it is critical that Asia rely more and more on our own resources. This is the very crucial part of our governance.

The Asian Development Bank, having done the "Asia 2050" study, has decided to adopt three complimentary strategic re-orientations in line with what they call "2020" strategies. The re-orientations include shifting from fighting excessive poverty to supporting faster and more inclusive goals from targeting economic growth to ensuring environmentally sustainable growth, and from a primarily national focus to a regional ultimately global focus. Given the serious environmental challenges facing the region, ADB strategies "2020" emphasize climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency.

In 2016, the Asian Development Bank backed the first climate bond in Asia and the Pacific, which was issued by a private company in the Philippines for expanding a geothermal power generation project. Additional sources of finance were made available through Asian nations in the forms of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), headquartered in Beijing and the New Development Bank, headquartered in Shanghai and established by a group of countries that call themselves BRICS and comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. This New Development Bank is indeed the first multi-national development bank ever set up entirely by emerging countries themselves.

This conglomeration of financial institutions in Asia should be more and more guided by the sustainability impact of their project loans to form a truly responsible governance for a sustainable Asia. In parallel with this arrangement, Asian financial governance for sustainability could also be supported by a collective strategy to promote an Asian green bond market with appropriate fiscal incentives as being undertaken, for example, in Europe and backed up by the United Nations. In the case of Thailand,



#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

we are just beginning to see a leading example demonstrated by the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, which has recently floated some green bonds to finance sustainable agricultural projects in Thailand.

Last month I helped launch UNCTAD's flagship report on trade and development. The special theme of the report for 2018 was "free-trade delusions," or in other words, the disappointments with free trade. The report raises a timely issue: whether free trade has delivered on its promises to provide more prosperity for humankind. As Asia's growth has and will be mainly driven by trade in merchandise and services, this discourse of the adverse impact of international trade on inequality, monopolies by large export firms and exacerbation of tax-based erosion through giant digital companies. Trade governance that can be compatible with sustainability goals can only be managed at a multilateral level, or as a second-best solution, at a development-oriented regional level.

In Asia during the last couple of years, we have been active in several efforts for regional economic and financial integration. These include the launch of the so-called ASEAN Economic Community in 2016, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (ASEAN plus six additional countries), and the revival of the so-called Trans-Pacific Partnership in a new grouping called Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, after the withdrawal of the US under the Trump administration.

Asia has also been blessed by a plethora of sub-regional economic cooperation agreements, such as those of the Greater Mekong Subregion, the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy, and The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, to name a few. Although we need to do our best to keep the multilateral process for trade as strong as possible, through, for example, Asia's support of the role of the multilateral world trade organization, the open regional framework of trade governance should also be fully utilized to advance Asia's sustainability agenda. Most of these regional platforms are designed to address sustainable development goals areas, particularly those involving environment and disaster management, renewable energy, public health, agriculture, poverty alleviation, climate change, and even cultural cooperation and people to people connectivity.

The regional disaster monitoring and warning system that is well supported by the UN World Meteorological Organization in Geneva is an enlightening demonstration of a regional trade platform that could alleviate poverty aggravation due to repeated national disasters. Another trade related item of global interest at present is the vastly popular bio-technology especially in the application of living organisms to make and modify products, and the global application of the convention on biological diversity. Several efforts have been made to harmonize different rules and regulations covering these unconventional areas with existing trade rules under the WTO, such as sanitary and phytosanitary measures, which reserves the right of sovereign governments to exercise health protection mandates without any abuse for protectionist purposes. It may also be in Asia's interest to bring this effort at harmonizing different food security regimes within the framework we have discussed on Asia's economic integration.



To complete the economic governance structure for sustainability, I propose to move to include the other side of the trade coin, which is investment. The UNSDGs will have very significant resource implications across the developed and developing world. According to UNCTAD, global investment needs are in the order of 5 to 7 trillion US dollars per year. Estimates on investment to cover daily basic infrastructure needs in developing country alone range from 3.3 trillion to 4.5 trillion US dollars per year, and for Asia alone, this might be close to something like 3 trillion US dollars. These needs include roads, rails, and ports, power stations, water, sanitation, food security, agriculture and rural development, addressing climate change, medication and adaptation, and health and education.

Therefore, there is still a substantial gap as the private sector normally accounts for a minute fraction of the total needs in SDG related sectors. To bridge this investment gap, increasing the involvement of the private sector in achieving sustainable Asia is absolutely obligatory. Policy wise, this could be somewhat sensitive, as it may involve public services like energy, and a right balance needs to be struck between creating a climate conducive to investment and protecting public interest. UNCTAD has proposed some strategy governance frameworks for private investment in attaining the SDGs, for example, enhancing accessibility of basic services through a voucher system, public procurement policies that favor goods that have been produced in an environmentally and socially friendly manner, and investment incentives based on the social and environmental performance of investors. Some of these frameworks could be absorbed into national strategic plans for investment promotion or could be adopted as part of a sustainable stock exchange regime, which is being promoted with guidance from the UN as well.

Underpinning the economic governance framework is a minimum level of social protection that is globally accepted as a counter balance to current globalization. Integrating and consolidating fragmented and underperforming social protection programs into the social protection flow can bring important gains in terms of treating human development on a life cycle basis and addressing multidimensional causes of poverty and social exclusion.

Although the design and implementation of nationally-defined social protection floors should follow country-specific dynamics, a number of principles and conditionalities could be molded into a common Asian platform. This could include combining income transfers to families with children and educational nutritional and health objectives to promote human development and reduce child labor; coherence between social employment and macroeconomic policies as part of a long-term sustainable development strategy; effective health financing system to ensure access to good quality health services, and; providing assistant incentives that promote participation in the formal labor market.

Having mentioned all of these proposed forms of sustainability governance, I should admit that governments and development financial institutions in Asia have already been attempting to put some of these policies into action. Achievements have been made but challenges remain. At the global level, the UN has presented a 2018 report on the progress of SDG attainments this year that portray a mixed result. I will summarize the report as follows.



#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

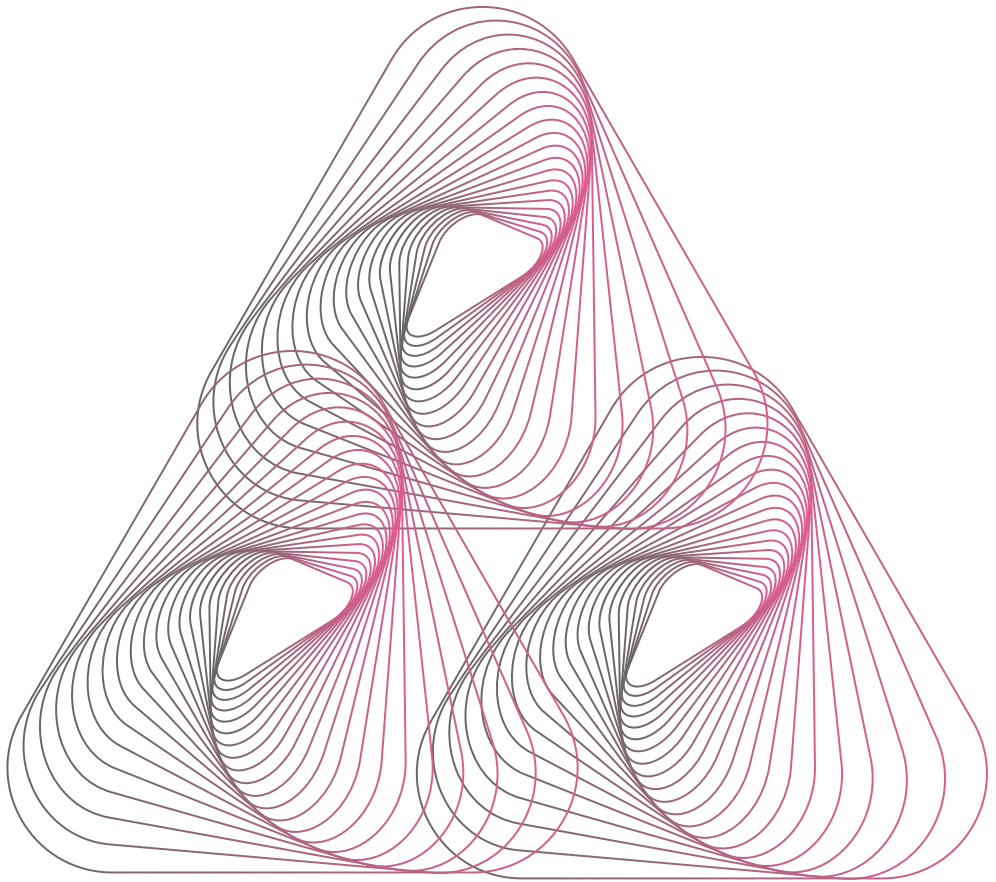
Poverty measures at the international poverty line have been falling, but the human right to social security is not yet a reality for the majority of the world's population. On SDG goal number two, zero hunger, the number of hungry people in the world has risen from 770 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016, mostly as a result of conflicts, disasters, and droughts linked to climate change. Government investments in agriculture as a share of GDP continued to decline, but trade distorting agricultural export subsidies have been drastically reduced. This is good news. On SDG goal number three, healthy lives, worldwide child mortality declined substantially, as well as maternal mortality. On SDG number six, water and sanitation, elevated levels of water stress were found for western, central, and southern Asia are such that they indicate a strong probability of future water scarcity. Future uneven resources are seen in other areas, such as energy. The proportion of the global population with access to electricity has been on the rise. However, the consumption of renewable energy barely goes up. Earnings inequalities are still pervasive and the world's youth are three times more prone to be unemployed than adults. On a positive note, in some countries the incomes of the bottom 40 percent of the population grew faster than that of the entire population. Another piece of good news is that the number of member states committed to promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the exploitation of genetic resources has been growing. As of February this year, 105 countries have ratified the so-called Nagoya Protocol, up from 96 countries in 2017.

So, whatever the configuration of future governance for sustainable Asia may be, we must be absolutely serious with the task at hand, as the odds are stacked against us reaching the desirable goals. A recent report from the 150 UN-led scientists to assess commitments from the Paris climate change agreement, controversial though it may be, concludes with a high confidence level that our current level of greenhouse emissions, the earth's surface will heat up beyond the 1.5 degree centigrade threshold by 2040. Urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to keep the global warming target, otherwise the world will face the full consequences of climate change, including droughts, floods, extreme heat, and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. If Asia and the rest of the world fail to contain the devastating impacts of the world heating up, all of the aforementioned governance attempts will have gone to waste. And that is a kind of apocalyptic scenario that we all just could not allow to happen. We must be able to switch off the mentality of unlimited conspicuous consumption that is promoted on social, or what I would rather call, anti-social media these days. Instead, we must switch to the pathway of creating real satisfaction and sustainable well-being and happiness through sufficiency economy principles, which I believe are equivalent to compassionate economics, as propounded by our late King Rama the 9th.

I would like to borrow from Mary Robinson's words before ending. Mary Robinson is a former president of Ireland and UN Secretary General special envoy on climate change. In response to the apocalyptic scenario painted by the recent landmark report by the UN inter-governmental panel on climate change, IPCC, she said, "I've learned from Archbishop Desmond Tutu to be a 'prisoner of hope,' a great expression that he uses. That means the glass may not be half full, but there's something in the glass that you work on. Hope brings energy."

Thank you very much for your attention.







#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

### Dr. Noeleen Heyzer

Noeleen Heyzer is currently a member of the UN Secretary General's High Level Advisory Board on Mediation. She was an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (2007-2015) and the first woman to serve as the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific since its founding in 1947. Under her leadership, the commission focused on regional co-operation for a more resilient Asia-Pacific, founded on shared prosperity, social equity, and sustainable development. She was at the forefront of many innovations including for inclusive socio-economic policies, sustainable agriculture and urbanization, regional disaster preparedness, energy security and regional connectivity, including intergovernmental agreements on Asia's intermodal transport and logistical system as well as the mapping of the ICT super highway in the region.

She was the first Executive Director outside of North America to lead the United Nations Development Fund for Women. She was widely recognized for the formulation and implementation of the landmark of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. She was also the UN SG's Special Adviser for Timor-Leste, working to support peace-building, state-building, and sustainable development.

Noeleen Heyzer was a founding member of several international women's networks and has served on numerous boards and advisory committees of international organizations, including the UNDP Human Development Report, the High-level Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding chaired by Nobel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen, appointed a jury member of US, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's Innovation Award for Women's and Girl's Empowerment 2010, and on the Board of Trustees of the National University of Singapore.

She holds a B.A. Hons and M.Sc. from Singapore University, a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, and has received numerous international awards for leadership.



## Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable ASEAN

Dr. Noeleen Heyzer

Your Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand,  
Professor Dr. Bundhit Eua-arporn, President, Chulalongkorn University,  
Mr. Park In-kook, President, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies,  
Fellow speakers,  
Distinguished members of the audience,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour to join you this morning at the Bangkok Forum 2018. Let me first congratulate Chulalongkorn University for hosting this important event. This Forum is taking place at a critical time and its theme, 'Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability,' could not be more timely.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development by the world leaders in September 2015, premised on leaving no one behind, there has been a much greater search for actions to bring about inclusive and sustainable development. This Forum gives us an opportunity to reflect on the social progress of our countries in the changing landscape of rising inequality, technological disruptions and climate change. We are assembled here to discuss how to contribute to the transformative sustainable development agenda to end poverty, provide human dignity to all, and protect our planet given contemporary challenges. The presence today of her Royal Highness shows the importance that Thailand, as the next chair of ASEAN, is giving to this people-centered, planet sensitive development, and to strengthening the social sustainability and fabric of our region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Asia has made great progress investing in people-centered development, creating middle class societies by reducing poverty and addressing inequalities through job-led growth; through quality health and education; and building the productive sectors of the real economy, including through technological and social innovations. However, despite our achievements, Asia still accounts for the bulk of the world's deprived people, including more than 60% (or 763 million people) of those living in extreme poverty (less than \$1.25 a day); nearly 70% of underweight children under the age of five; and more than 70% (1.74 billion people) of those without proper sanitation.

Clearly, while Asia's rapid growth has brought unprecedented prosperity to our region, this prosperity is not shared enough and far too many people are still left behind. Our prosperity is spread unevenly across countries and communities, among men and women, and today it has also become extremely concentrated. Persons with a net worth of \$30 million or more (ultra-high net worth individuals)



#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

accounted for 30% of the region's income in 2012-13. At about \$7.5 trillion, the net wealth of this group was 17 times more than the combined GDP of the Asia-Pacific least developed countries in 2012-13. A high ratio of wealth to GDP illustrates concerns regarding concentration of political or business power linked to asset ownership in our countries.

Growing economic, social, and political inequalities have become more intertwined than ever, posing grievous threat to our dynamism, to our social cohesion, and to the next phase of our development journey. The IMF tells us that less inequality is associated with more sustainable growth and poverty reduction. At the same time, excessive inequality is associated with marginalized people, damaged communities, and eroded trust. It is no wonder that so many feel anger and frustration, with the sense that the rules of the game are unfair and unable to stamp out self-interest and corruption by powerful elites. Many are therefore inclined to disrupt the established order.

I am particularly concerned by the persisting **inequalities of opportunity** as growth is becoming increasingly disconnected from labor market outcomes. The informal economy is expanding as employment growth in the formal sector has been less than the economic growth rate. Formal sector work is becoming increasingly casual, flexible, outsourced, unregulated, and contract based. This has real implications for workers caught in these arrangements, most of whom are women and migrants from rural or low income countries, in terms of security of employment, conditions at work, health and safety concerns, and reducing poverty through work.

The future of work must be more equal, and more inclusive. Currently, women provide the majority of unpaid and undervalued care work. They still occupy the lower echelons of the occupational ladder and earn, on average, about 20 percent less than men globally. At the same time, the world of work is being fundamentally changed by unprecedented technological disruption. In ASEAN, the sectors impacted are automobile, electronics, textile, clothing, and footwear, business process outsourcing, and retail. There will be the “hollowing out” of low-skilled and middle-skilled jobs, impacting job and income security. Women's jobs will be those mostly affected. We know that the digital revolution presents great peril, but also great promise by creating new industries and jobs. Preparing women to adapt to new forms of work, including in the digital economy, requires governments, the private sector, and civil society working together to eradicate discrimination against women. They need to design the right labor market reforms; strengthen education and skills training for the economy of the future; and provide social protection systems—to include all people, not exclude them, and prepare them for the coming technological transformation.

**Ecological imbalances** also need to be addressed. The Asian region is a major contributor to climate change due to resource intensive and environmentally polluting growth patterns. Climate change has serious consequences for our region and for social sustainability. Evidence shows that climate change is affecting weather patterns in the region, creating more intense cyclones, higher rainfall, a higher frequency of flooding, and exposing areas to types of disasters they are not used to and poorly prepared for. We can no longer grow first and clean up later.



Asia's next transformation cannot follow the same script. Its dynamism can only be maintained through a deeper social transformation. We have an opportunity now to re-think our development and to create a new development paradigm as we navigate the changing development landscape of the 21st Century. This paradigm must be based not just on the quantity of growth, but also on the quality of growth. The foundations for strong, inclusive, and sustainable development exist in the region, as well as the knowledge and good practices for closing our development gaps and addressing the challenges we face in an integrated way. I will mention a few specific opportunities here.

As our region continues to recover from the financial crisis and deal with the current US-China trade wars, it is timely for ASEAN and its dialogue partners in the Asia Pacific to promote a new Asian model for inclusive economic growth. We need to develop new engines for sustaining Asia's dynamism so that we no longer continue to rely on the US economy as the primary driver of growth. This will require re-balancing the region's economies in favor of more domestic consumption and regional cooperation. If Asia is home to more than half the world's poor, we also have potentially the world's largest unmet needs and therefore market demands if financial and economic systems are made more inclusive.

For this to happen, we need to reduce risks and vulnerabilities of our region's poor and build greater aggregate demand by building the foundations for social sustainability and social security in the region. Providing a living wage and unemployment insurance will buffer people from financial uncertainties. Protecting people through adequate pensions, health insurance, and agricultural insurance will help us realize the inclusive growth model this region is striving for. Social protection systems not only create the foundations for more inclusive and harmonious societies, they also make good economic sense.

Asian countries have already started to forge new sustainable development pathways that are climate friendly. Green Growth, which is being spearheaded in Asia and the Pacific, is economic growth that uses environmental resources productively, maintaining or restoring environmental quality, and meeting the needs of all people. According to the ILO, the future of work could be green. Embracing the circular economy, which encourages goods to be recycled, reused, remanufactured, and repaired, has the potential to create an additional 6 million jobs. The developing countries in our region therefore have significant potential to achieve a more resource-efficient and job-led sustainable development.

In this context, I would like to applaud the initiatives of ASEAN that together can be a driving force in Asia. The ASEAN Community Vision 2025 focuses on building an inclusive, people-centered, and socially responsible ASEAN Community that promotes a 'high quality of life and equitable access to opportunities for all,' and builds resilient and sustainable Community that 'promotes social development and environmental protection through effective mechanisms to meet current and future needs of the peoples.' The ASEAN Vision 2025 is fully consistent with the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and actually presents a way forward to achieving it in a regional framework.



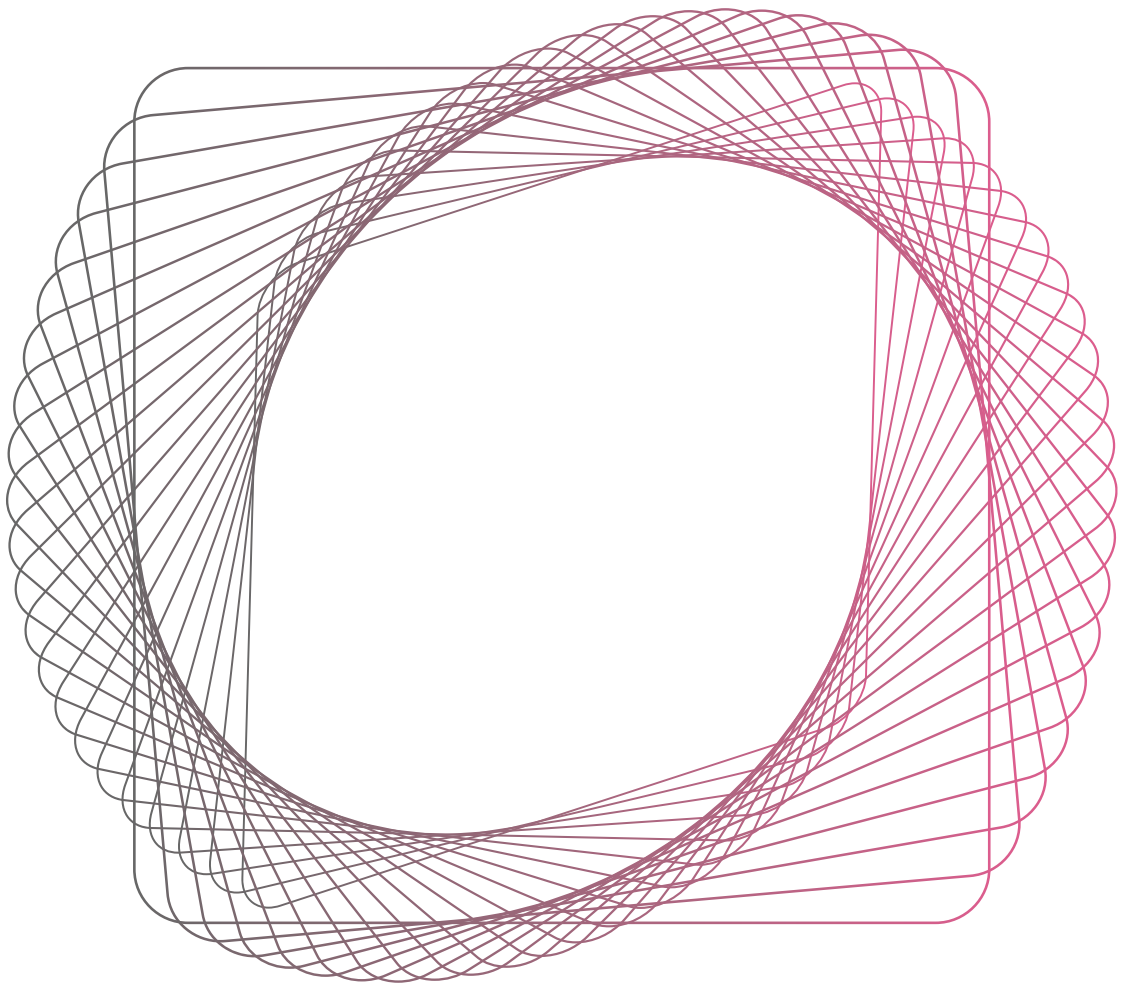
#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

While in the world there is a great backlash over regional groupings such as NAFTA, TPP, and Brexit, to name a few, ASEAN can develop a template for regional integration with a human face. ASEAN has led Asia and the Pacific region in regional economic integration and has the potential to lead in community-building by becoming genuinely more people-centered. Only by taking care of its people and leaving no one behind can ASEAN avoid the perils of the changing development landscape and instead harness the opportunities to deliver the promise an Inclusive and Sustainable Community with ASEAN Vision 2025, the promise embedded in the ASEAN Charter.

To conclude, we in ASEAN need to rethink the way we implement development. This requires more than a new toolbox of policy measures. We need an integrated vision of implementation and a knowledge system in which inter-linkages are well understood and utilized. The economic and social transformation that we seek must deal holistically with extreme inequality and social exclusion, decent and productive work, the care economy, and environmental sustainability. These are the priorities of human sustainability and social development in the 21st century. Realizing them is our only road to dignity and the future we want by 2030.

However, this agenda for renewal will only succeed in giving people meaningful, secure, and dignified lives if there is bold leadership, mindset change, and moral courage at every level of society to ensure implementation and accountability. We cannot go on doing business as usual and expect different results. This is hence an urgent call to action for each one of us, whether we are in government, the private sector, academia, civil society, community leadership, or just the citizenry, so that we can all leave a better world for our children and their children, leaving no one behind. If we get it right now, we get it right for generations to come.







#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

### Dr. Hongjoo Hahm

Hongjoo Hahm (Republic of Korea) is the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). He currently serves as the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP for Programme, Economics and Financing.

Formerly, Hongjoo Hahm was the Senior Advisor to the Water Global Practice Group at the World Bank, where he also served as Country Manager for the Balkans, Head of the Infrastructure Unit in Jakarta (transport, energy, urban, and water and sanitation sectors), and Program Manager for the post-tsunami reconstruction of Aceh, post-earthquake Yogyakarta, and flood mitigation in Jakarta.

Hongjoo Hahm previously served as Global Head for Central Banks, Official Institutions and Sovereign Wealth Funds at Goldman Sachs LLC for five years. He also worked at the Asian Development Bank and the Korea Development Institute, and taught economics at New York University, Queens College, and the City University of New York.

Hongjoo Hahm holds a Ph.D. from New York University, an Executive MBA from Harvard Business School, and a Diploma from the Cambridge University Programme for Sustainable Development. He graduated from Cairo American College, received his B.A. from the College of William and Mary, and M. Phil from the London School of Economics. He graduated from Korea's Third Military Academy and was commissioned as an officer in the Korean Army.



## The Challenges of SDGs in the Asia Pacific Region

Dr. Hongjoo Hahm

Your Royal Highness,  
Dr. Panditchpakdi,  
Dr. Heyzer,  
Professor Dr. Bundhit Eua-arporn,  
Mr. Park In-kook,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be with you today. I am delighted to consider with you the extraordinary progress Asia and the Pacific has made in recent decades; to touch upon the remaining challenges our region faces to achieve the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals; and set out how the United Nations, national governments, civil society and the private sector can work together to deliver inclusive sustainable growth in our region.

In terms of economic growth, our region now accounts for over 40 percent of global GDP. Income levels have shot up, doubling over the past thirty years. The percentage of the population living in poverty has dropped to 10 percent. This is still unacceptably high, but a remarkable improvement from 46 percent in 1990. Around half of the world's middle class now lives in Asia and the Pacific.

We have also seen amazing progress on social indicators. As our region has grown more prosperous, social improvements have radically changed our societies. We are living longer, healthier lives. Since 1960, life expectancy has increased by a quarter, from 53 to 72 years. Deaths from infectious diseases have halved. Access to safe drinking water has increased to 94 percent of the population. Women have taken control of their fertility and are having far fewer children. Asia-Pacific saw the greatest reduction in maternal mortality in any region during the MDG era. Lower fertility has led to improved maternal and child health, but also contributed to poverty reduction and improved education.

Improved access to education has been one of the greatest achievements of my generation. Most countries in Asia and the Pacific have now achieved primary enrolment of more than 90% of school-aged children. Literacy rates have increased considerably. Girls have much better access to education, although gender equality is far from achieved. Most Asia-Pacific countries have achieved near gender equality in primary school enrolment.

However, our region's exponential economic growth has come at a high environmental cost. Our dependence on fossil fuels to power our economy is unsustainable. This is compounded by deforestation to create farmland - partly in response to the increasing demand for meat - but also by the carbon dependent lifestyles of an exploding urban middle class. Asia and the Pacific continues to urbanise at breakneck speed.



#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

In 2018, about half of the population in Asia and the Pacific lives in cities. The result is often overcrowding, congested infrastructure, high energy consumption and poor air quality. Over two million premature deaths a year in our region are linked to air pollution and the respiratory diseases caused by harmful cooking fuels.

There are many challenges for current and future generations. Inequalities are widening, within and between countries: inequalities of income, opportunity and exposure to environmental degradation and natural disasters. Last year, income inequalities increased in 40 percent of our countries where wealth is increasingly concentrated. The net worth of the region's billionaires is more than 7 times the combined GDP of the region's least developed countries. Had income inequality not increased over the past decade, 140 million more people would have been lifted out of poverty.

Inequality of opportunity is most obvious when it comes to accessing essential public services, particularly in rural areas. One third of the region's population lacks access to safe sanitation and sixty percent to healthcare services. In the region's poorer countries, there is much lower attendance in secondary education – despite the encouraging enrolment figures. Rapid advancements in technology is creating a digital divide.

Inequalities are being entrenched by climate change and environmental degradation. Disasters are killing twenty times more people in Asia-Pacific than elsewhere. They are also compromising food security and pushing people back into poverty. Over the SDG implementation period, it is expected that 40 percent of global economic losses from disasters will be in Asia and the Pacific. Each time our region is struck by a natural disaster, the Gini coefficient increases.

I have mentioned the environmental degradation and climate change that have occurred in recent decades. Yet since the Agenda 2030 was launched in 2015, no progress has been made. The health of our oceans has deteriorated: 60% of the coral reefs are at risk from destructive human activities and estimates put the cost of marine pollution to regional economies at a staggering US\$1.3 billion.

There has been no progress towards protecting and restoring the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems: 60% of mangrove forests protecting our coastlines are lost and 80% of our rivers are heavily polluted. Our region accounts for the bulk of cities with air pollution at unhealthy levels. Asia and the Pacific is feeling the full force of climate change through rising sea levels and the increased frequency of extreme weather events, but our carbon emissions remain much too high.

Insufficient progress is being made on SDG indicators related to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies—by which I mean providing access to justice for all and building effective and accountable institutions. Research from ESCP finds weak economic governance partly explains the low levels of tax revenues in parts of our region. People's willingness to pay is eroded if the standard of public services



is perceived to be incommensurate to their contribution. Asia-Pacific has one of the world's lowest tax-to-GDP levels, with several countries tax-take as low as 10 percent of GDP.

The quality of governance also impacts on the composition and efficiency of public expenditure. Very weak governance can reduce the portion of social expenditure on education, health, and social protection. In Georgia, the impact of better governance and effective implementation of public policies has been shown to improve health sector efficiency significantly.

In many countries in our region, evidence suggests there is a strong case for increasing transparency of public expenditure; strengthening internal and external controls; improving information flows across government to improve tax enforcement; and fiscal decentralization to strengthen accountability and efficiency at local levels.

You may now ask: what is the UN doing to address the situation? How is the UN helping us?

The UN cannot, alone, overcome the challenges I have outlined. To do so effectively, member states, civil society, and the private sector all have crucial roles to play. Working with the UN, countries from across the region have agreed a Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a blueprint for priority regional actions in support of the 2030 Agenda. At ESCAP, we aim to support this process by developing concepts for sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental stewardship.

Our ambition is for our research to support intergovernmental consensus that address today's challenges. For instance, our research demonstrates that we must tackle agriculture, food security, and climate change together—promoting solutions that maintain healthy ecosystems and strengthen food production capacity. To guard against inequality and promote social sustainability, our analysis demonstrates that we must focus on strengthening social protection—prioritizing investment to improve the quality of education and healthcare; and improving our multilateral response to natural disasters, mainstreaming risk mitigation into broader governance practices and improving early warning systems to build resilience.

To prevent a widening digital divide, the focus must on improving connectivity, including broadband coverage to reach those in the most remote areas. And with the fourth industrial revolution underway, the sharing of best practice is essential—so that we can use technology to reduce carbon emissions and improve the productivity of our economies while managing the impact on the work place.

Thailand has been central to developing a regional approach to overcoming key challenges to sustainable development. It has been a valuable development experience to share the mainstreaming of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy across sectors: an approach that has so much in common with the 2030 Agenda.



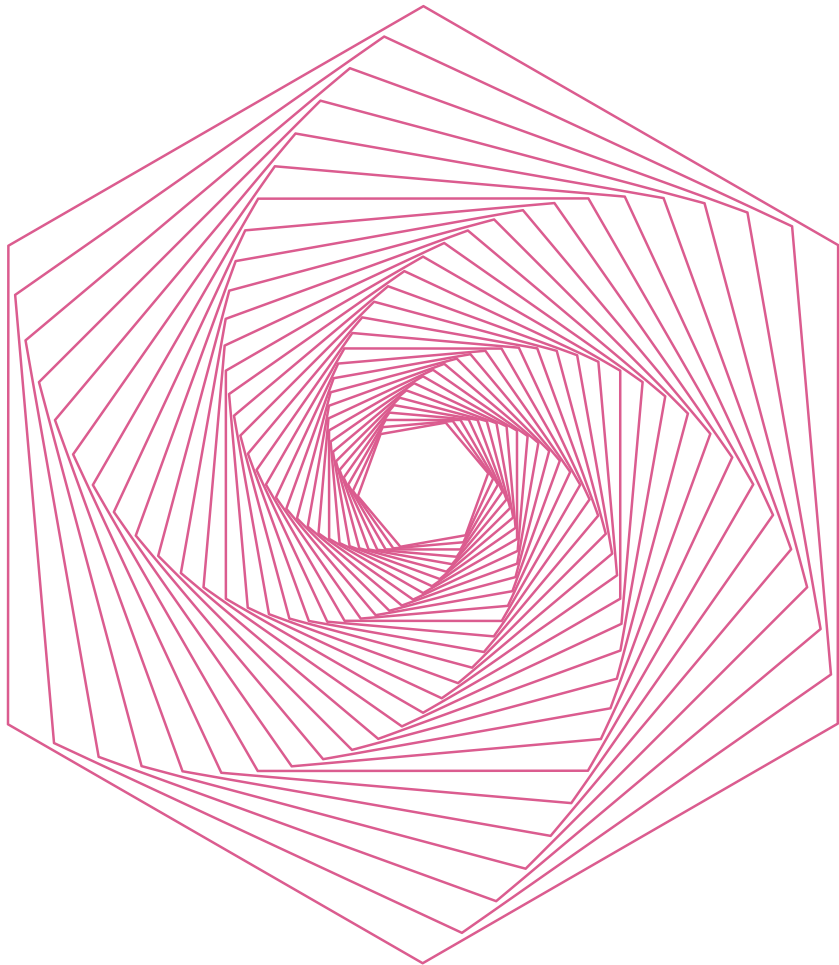
#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

The upcoming chairmanship of ASEAN is an opportunity for Thailand to play to its strengths and accelerate the common UN-ASEAN plan of action, which identifies key areas where integrated approaches could accelerate both the 2030 Agenda and the ASEAN Vision 2025. These areas – set out in a Complementarities Report - focus on resilience, infrastructure, sustainable consumption and production, poverty eradication, and sustainable management of natural resources. And work is underway to support energy interconnection, the greening of SMEs, adapting to ageing societies and supporting the development of smart cities.

One of the actions required to improve coordination has already been set in motion by Thailand: the creation of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue. At ESCAP, we are looking forward to working with Thailand and all interested parties to support these priorities.

An integrated, coordinated approach can, over time, return Asia-Pacific's economies and societies to a sustainable footing. Action in our region is essential for the world to achieve the global 2030 Agenda. To achieve this, however, we need to step up our collective effort. Thailand has a major contribution to make to Asia-Pacific's regional push and the ASEAN chairmanship gives it an opportunity. At the UN, at ESCAP, we are keen to seize it, and work with all of you to support inclusive sustainable development across Asia and the Pacific.







#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

### Professor Dr. Nay Htun

Nay Htun is Founder and Honorary Patron of the Myanmar-based not-for-profit association, Green Economy Green Growth, GEGG <[www.geggmyanmar.org](http://www.geggmyanmar.org)>, that “expeditiously promote green economy green growth in Myanmar and fostering national and international partnerships”. GEGG provides key support to the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy, AIGE, an ASEAN Charter Entity endorsed at the 2014 ASEAN Summit.

Nay Htun has been and continues to be actively associated with a number of universities: Fellow & Visiting Professor Imperial College London; Honorary Professor Tongji University, Shanghai China; Adjunct Professor, Stony Brook University (or State University of New York at Stony Brook); formerly Visiting Scholar, Harvard; Visiting Scholar, Fletcher School of International Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; Chancellor Distinguished Fellow, University of California, Irvine; Visiting Professor and Senior Advisor Asia Pacific, International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics, Lund University, Sweden; and Visiting Professor and International Advisor, Chulabhorn Research Institute, Thailand,

He has worked in the rank of UN Assistant Secretary General at both UNEP and UNDP. He has also worked as UNCED Programme Director (aka 1992 Rio Earth Summit), Special Advisor, Focal point for Business and Industry. He was the ADB Special Advisor for RIO +20. Before the UN, he was with Exxon Thailand and managed the largest Department.

Nay Htun has been a Board Member of many not-for-profit organizations around the world: International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia University, New York; Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan; International Vaccine Institute, Seoul, Korea, (Founding and Emeritus Trustee); International Council for Science, France; Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden; and The China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, Beijing.

Nay Htun received his Ph.D. degree in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College London. He was elected Fellow of Imperial College, the highest honor the College awards for outstanding achievements.



## Transformative Green Paradigm: An Imperative

Professor Dr. Nay Htun

The October 2018 Special Report *Global Warming of 1.5°C* from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly and vigorously presents a far more alarming account of the immediate consequences of climate change than previously reported. It also warns that we will feel these consequences severely as early as 2040. The Report unequivocally states that climate change impacts and responses are closely linked to sustainable development, which balances social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental protection.

Social determinants are critically important to promote sustainability as well as to foster better societal understanding and harmony, and reduce conflicts. This is especially true in ageing societies in Asia (including in Thailand, where it is envisaged that by 2020 one third of the population, or approximately 12 million citizens, will be 65 years and older, according to studies by the National Economic and Social and Development Board and Mahidol University Institute of Population and Social Research).

Respect, dignity, mobility, safety, security, and health care are needed in homes, transportation systems, social services, and workplaces as more and more senior citizens continue to work. They are particularly vulnerable and at risk from hydro meteorological disasters such as flooding, cyclones, and increasing heat waves that are exacerbated by climate change.

Sustainability is enhanced by resiliency and sufficiency, providing the platform for inclusivity and equity. The need for holistic, integrated and transformative concepts, policies, strategies, and practices to respond to the historical changes occurring are discussed in this presentation.

### Systems and systemic mega-changes

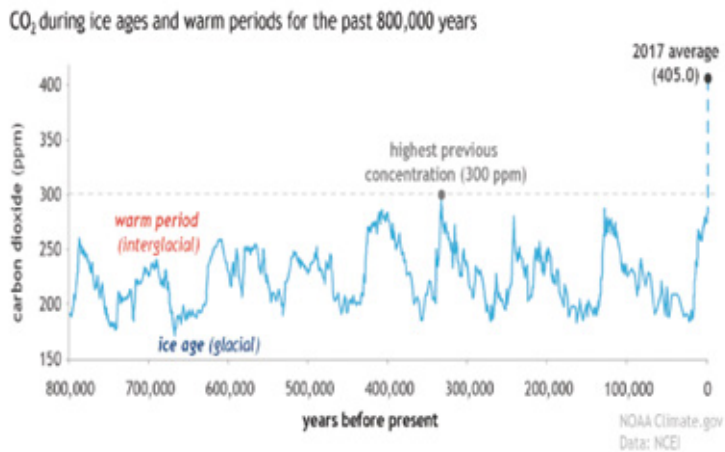
As confirmed by the IPCC Special Report, scientific research and empirical evidence increasingly points to the systems and systemic changes taking place, many of which have not occurred during the past millennia and more. Importantly, the interactions within and between the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and human sphere and the primary, secondary, and tertiary effects on life support systems are not adequately known.

Some of the changes include increasing atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> (see Figure 1), rising global surface temperatures that make the last 115 years the warmest period in the history of modern civilization, and rising global mean sea levels to rates that are higher than any preceding century during at least the last 2,800 years.



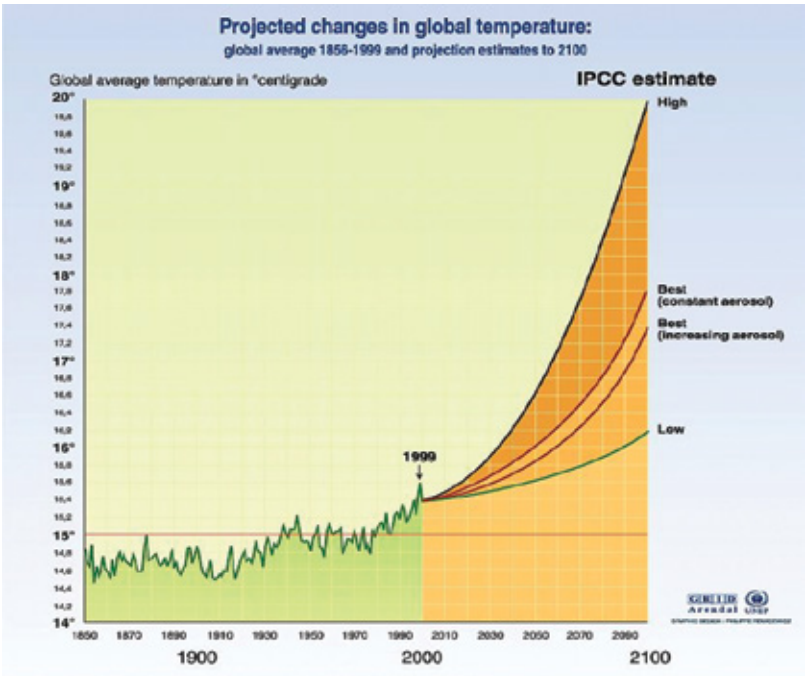
IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Figure 1



Source: US NOAA Climate.gov 1 Aug 2018  
Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations in parts per million (ppm) for the past 800,000 years, based on EPICA (ice core) data. The peaks and valleys in carbon dioxide levels track the coming and going of ice ages (low carbon dioxide) and warmer interglacials (higher levels). Throughout these cycles, atmospheric carbon dioxide was never higher than 300 ppm; in 2017, it reached 405.0 ppm (black dot). NOAA Climate.gov, based on EPICA Dome C data (Lüthi, D., et al., 2008) provided by NOAA NCEI Paleoclimatology Program.

Figure 2



Source: Temperatures 1856-1999: Climatic Research Unit, University at East Anglia, Norwich UK. Projection: IPCC report 95.



With the 2015 Paris Agreement, governments worldwide agreed to hold global warming “well below 2.0°C” and to aim for 1.5°C. Most of the research and analysis prior to 2015 focused on the 2.0°C threshold, a more established international target. During the IPCC’s 44th Session in 2016, the Panel approved the outline of the *Special Report Global Warming of 1.5°C*, which describes above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.

The major and timely *Special Report* was reviewed and approved at the IPCC meeting in Incheon ROK on 6 October 2018.

The Summary for Policymakers highlights include:

- Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C.
- The avoided climate change impacts on sustainable development, eradication of poverty and reducing inequalities would be greater if global warming were limited to 1.5°C rather than 2°C, if mitigation and adaptation synergies are maximized while trade-offs are minimized (high confidence).
- Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming<sup>5</sup> above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. (high confidence).
- Mitigation and adaptation consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5°C are underpinned by enabling conditions across the geophysical, environmental-ecological, technological, economic, socio-cultural and institutional dimensions of feasibility. Strengthened multi-level governance, institutional capacity, policy instruments, technological innovation and transfer and mobilization of finance, and changes in human behavior and lifestyles are enabling conditions that enhance the feasibility of mitigation and adaptation options for 1.5°C consistent systems transitions (high confidence).
- A mix of adaptation and mitigation options to limit global warming to 1.5°C, implemented in a participatory and integrated manner, can enable rapid, systemic transitions in urban and rural areas (high confidence). These are most effective when aligned with economic and sustainable development, and when local and regional governments and decision makers are supported by national governments (medium confidence).
- The lower the emissions in 2030, the lower the challenge in limiting global warming to 1.5°C after 2030 with no or limited overshoot (high confidence). The challenges from delayed actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions include the risk of cost escalation, lock-in in carbon-emitting infrastructure, stranded assets, and reduced flexibility in future response options in the medium to long-term (high confidence). These may increase uneven distributional impacts between countries at different stages of development (medium confidence).



#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

- Adaptation options that reduce the vulnerability of human and natural systems have many synergies with sustainable development, if well managed, such as ensuring food and water security, reducing disaster risks, improving health conditions, maintaining ecosystem services and reducing poverty and inequality (high confidence). Increasing investment in physical and social infrastructure is a key enabling condition to enhance the resilience and the adaptive capacities of societies. These benefits can occur in most regions with adaptation to 1.5°C of global warming.

- The consideration of ethics and equity can help address the uneven distribution of adverse impacts associated with 1.5°C and higher levels of global warming, as well as those from mitigation and adaptation, particularly for poor and disadvantaged populations, in all societies.

- Climate change impacts and responses are closely linked to sustainable development which balances social well-being, economic prosperity and environmental protection. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015, provide an established framework for assessing the links between global warming of 1.5°C or 2°C and development goals that include poverty eradication, reducing inequalities, and climate action (high confidence).

➤ *Ocean acidification* caused by oxides of carbon, sulfur and nitrogen, are resulting in un-parallel acidification in at least the past 66 million years. This has very significant effects for marine life and implications for food supply. Many people, particularly in developing countries and people living in poverty, a major source of proteins is from marine sources. *Biodiversity and the ecosystem functions* are impaired by climate change, global warming, sea level rise, acidification, and biodiversity are interconnected through the ecosystem services it supports, and upon which the survival of all life depends. Ecosystem functions are not general understood, and hence undervalued include;

- Purification, Filtration and Detoxification of air, water and soils;
- Cycling nutrients, nitrogen fixation, carbon sequestration, soil formation;
- Regulation and Stabilization of pest and disease, climate regulation, mitigation of storms and floods, soil erosion control;
- Habitat Provision for animals and plants, storehouse for genetic material;
- Regeneration and Production of biomass, raw materials and food, pollination and seed dispersal;
- Information / Life-fulfilling aesthetic, recreational, cultural and spiritual role, education and research.

The value of ecosystem functions is conservatively estimated to be currently US\$40 trillion, roughly half of that of the world GDP of US\$76 trillion in 2016.

➤ There is increasing concerns with the loss of biodiversity. The WWF / UNEP / WCMC Living Planet Index with data on the abundance of terrestrial, freshwater and marine species around the world, indicates that between 1970 and 2000, the terrestrial index fell by about 30%, 50%, and 30% respectively.

It is difficult to measure the economic costs of climate change. Ecosystem functions, an invaluable economic resource, are all affected by climate. The frequency and severity of natural and man-made disasters



are exacerbated by climate change, according to an increasing number of reports. Damage costs rarely and adequately take into account the social, human and health costs of such disasters, in particular the loss of limbs and lives. The economic costs to structures and agriculture are more easily estimated and a UN FAO 2018 Report points out that between 2005 and 2015 natural disasters cost to the agricultural sectors of developing country economies was a staggering US\$96 billion in damaged or lost crop and livestock production, US\$48 billion of which occurred in Asia.

The ADB's 2012 *Lessons Learned from Intense Climate-related Natural Disasters in Asia and the Pacific* synthesis presents lessons drawn from evaluations of information sourced from publicly available databases. It found that:

- The rainfall and temperatures associated with these events are becoming more variable and extreme, and the evidence suggests that coastal regions in South, Southeast, and East Asia are at greater risk.
- There is also evidence that the more frequent and intense impact of these weather-related disasters results from a confluence of three factors: the changing nature of the hazards, rising exposure of populations, and limited adaptive capacity in many countries.
- Disasters also seem to be taking a heavier toll on low- and lower-middle-income countries.
- Such calamities erode the otherwise dramatic progress on poverty reduction and other development gains of the past two decades.

As reported in the September 8, 2018 issue of *Japan Times*, “Record typhoons, biblical floods, heat waves, landslides and earthquakes: This summer, Japan really has seen it all, and images of the destruction have been beamed around the world. And while world-class infrastructure and high-tech warning systems means the death toll and damage is generally lower here than elsewhere, climate change is putting that to the test, experts say. Moreover, citizens used to decades of natural disasters may be underestimating the risk posed by stronger climate change-related phenomena.”

Natural disasters in general are wreaking havoc across Asia. The 7.5-magnitude earthquake off the central island of Sulawesi Indonesia in September 2018 set off a tsunami that engulfed the coastal city of Palu. The death toll is estimated to be of over 1,400. The Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004, with an undersea 9.1 magnitude-earthquake and waves of 9 meters, killed at least 225,000 people across a dozen countries, with Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Maldives sustaining massive damage. Earthquakes and tsunamis are responsible for more deaths than extreme weather events, having claimed an estimated 747,234 lives over the last 20 years, according to a new UNISDR report. According to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR, Indonesia has suffered more deaths from tsunamis than any other country.

Pollution, in particular hazardous wastes, plastics, and endocrine disrupting chemicals significantly and severely compromise the integrity of biodiversity and ecosystem functions, and have effects on health and quality of life. For example, there is growing awareness of the possible adverse effects to humans and wildlife from exposure to chemicals that can interfere with the endocrine system. According to WHO and



#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

UNEP reports “EDCs have been suspected to be associated with altered reproductive function in males and females; increased incidence of breast cancer, abnormal growth patterns and neurodevelopmental delays in children, as well as changes in immune function.” According to the US EPA and NIEHS “very few chemicals have been tested for their potential to interfere with the endocrine system. Current standard test methods do not provide adequate data to identify potential endocrine disruptor chemicals (EDCs) or to assess their risks to humans and wildlife.” Endocrine disruptor chemicals can be found in many everyday products—including plastic bottles, metal food cans, detergents, flame retardants, food, toys, cosmetics, and pesticides.



Source: [www.healthandenvironment.org](http://www.healthandenvironment.org)

The well-researched article on “Production, Use and Fate of all Plastics ever made” by Roland Geyer, et.al Science Advances(2017) estimates that “8300 million metric tons (Mt) of virgin plastics have been produced to date. As of 2015, approximately 6300 Mt of plastic waste had been generated, around 9% of which had been recycled, 12% was incinerated, and 79% was accumulated in landfills or the natural environment. If current production and waste management trends continue, roughly 12,000 Mt of plastic waste will be in landfills or in the natural environment by 2050.”

The research undertaken by the Countering WEEE Illegal Trade (CWIT) project, funded by European Commission, found that in Europe, only 35% (3.3 million tons) of all the e-waste discarded in 2012, ended up in the officially reported amounts of collection and recycling systems. The other 65% (6.15 million tons) was either exported; (1.5 million tons) recycled under non-compliant conditions in Europe; (3.15 million tons) scavenged for valuable parts, or simply thrown in waste bins (750,000 tons).

Besides the EDC such as Bisphenol A (BPA) and Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), micro plastics are also pose health and ecological concerns.

In Thailand, the problem and threat posed by plastic wastes gained widespread public and media attention earlier in the year when a dead whale was found with 18 pounds of plastic materials in its stomach. Countries in Asia are amongst the major contributors of plastics in oceans. Half the world’s plastics are made in Asia—29 percent in China.

Fast changes in technology; planned obsolescence; increasing quantity fueling imports, exports and trade; scarcity and costs of rare metals, and opportunities for recycling, have resulted in fast-growing electronic waste around the globe. Technical solutions need to be augmented with laws, regulations and enforcement for safe management of e-wastes.



As confirmed by the IPCC Special Report, an increasing range of the impacts and consequences of the mega changes are irreversible and have dire implications on human well fare, wellbeing, health, environment and development, and indeed on the patrimony of a country.

## Transformative Response Options

Sustainability, resiliency, sufficiency, inclusivity, and equity are interconnected. In the context of these risks, disasters, and unprecedented changes, the ability and speed with which social, economic, and ecological systems must also be resilient to withstand shocks and rebound back and regain their functions is also critical. In an increasingly resource-scarce future, sufficiency is necessary and important. Sustainability, resiliency, sufficiency are interconnected and form a continuum that foster inclusivity and equity.

Transformational materials, energy, behavior and lifestyles supported by science, technology, economic incentives, financial instruments, education and training, and with institutions and governance that have a vision of an urgent need for a new paradigm, are imperative. This paradigm applies in particular to social economic development and in particular to cities, transportation, industry, agriculture, and land use.

Transformative response options include energy transitions such as decarbonization, conservation, and efficiency. For example, smart and self-cleaning glass in buildings, automobiles, and airplanes that filter out infra-red spectrum of sunlight, but allow light spectrum wave lengths to pass through are increasingly available. Recent innovations and developments include imparting resilient properties that will enable the glass to withstand hurricanes and typhoons. New generations of clean energy that significantly reduce or eliminate greenhouse gas carbon dioxide includes artificial photosynthesis that bio-mimics and replicates the natural process of photosynthesis for capturing and storing the energy from sunlight and convert CO<sup>2</sup> into biomass, fuels or other useful products. It is attracting increasing research and development.

Breakthrough research in artificial photosynthesis also includes the development of a system that can capture carbon dioxide emissions before they are discharged into the atmosphere and then, powered by solar energy, convert that carbon dioxide into valuable chemical products, including biodegradable plastics, pharmaceutical drugs and liquid fuels.

Other research includes photocatalytic water splitting that converts water into hydrogen and oxygen; light-driven carbon dioxide reduction that replicates natural carbon fixation; photo electrochemistry in fuel cells; engineering of enzymes; photoautotrophic microorganisms for microbial fuel cells; and bio hydrogen production from sunlight.

Such research and development highlights an emerging alliance between the fields of materials sciences and biology. This is resulting in the development of biofuel from algae, plant wastes, and species rich in natural oils lipids. It is reported by ExxonMobil that, “harvesting a single acre of algae can provide 2000 gallons of biofuel. By comparison, a similar sized plot of palm-oil trees typically yield just 650 gallons” To scale up commercially, R&D is underway to improve oil yields from algae.



#### IV. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

**Materials transition**, or the research, development and application of “smart materials” is also increasing. Biomimetic, bio responsive, and bioactive materials, (Wiley & Sons 2012) that integrate materials into tissues provide a new era of “discipline where the concepts of biomimicry, bio responsiveness, and bioactivity are associated not only to the production of new biomedical devices, but also to biomaterials able to drive the complete regeneration of tissues and organs.” Such materials are increasingly available to cater to the requirements and needs of the aging and those with disabilities.

For example, at the recent British Science Festival in Hull, UK, “smart materials” made into trousers to help elderly people stand up, stay standing, and use the toilet more easily were presented by Jonathan Rossiter, a professor of robotics at the University of Bristol. He reported that the “materials are lightweight bubble artificial muscles, which could help people to stand up or to lift objects” and that although “the artificial muscles are not yet brain-controllable but rather work by measuring the muscle activity of the limbs,” he believes that wearable technologies will not only assist people with mobility problems with daily tasks, but could also be useful for rehabilitation.

**Behavioral and lifestyle transformations** are fundamentally necessary and important to conserve more; use energy and materials more efficiently; produce less waste, and cause fewer impacts on health and the ecosystem. What we eat, wear, and how we live, travel, and work have significant consequences. The adage “do more with less” is very apt.

**Institution and governance transformations** are pivotal to enable and support the fast transitions needed, as reiterated in the IPCC Special Report. Institutions and governance need to be responsive to the fast emerging risks with the ability and flexibility to seize opportunities. Responsible and accountable policies and practices enable consideration of ethics and equity that help address the uneven distribution of the adverse impacts of the mega changes.

We need to fast forward from why, where, when, and what, to how. There is much advocacy and advice on WHAT needs to be done, but not much on how to do it. The 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, UNCED (aka the RIO Earth Summit) concluded that the three pillars of sustainability, economic, social, and environmental, need to be integrated. Twenty years later, the RIO+20 Outcome document, *The Future We Want*, arrived at the same conclusion and lamented the lack of progress in integration.

A recent review of the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs reported that almost two-thirds of the countries in Asia Pacific are failing to meet the 17 goals, but offered no guidance and insight on how countries could meet them and how the SDGs could be integrated into national development plans and strategies.



The UNDP 2016 report on *Ten Solutions to meet the SDGs in Asia and Pacific* is an important step in the right direction. Many more such solutions based on robust case studies need to be supported and disseminated to form a critical mass of experience for scaling up and integration into national development policies.

Business as usual, small and disconnected steps, and a lack of urgency will not adequately address the mounting damage costs and the unprecedented accelerated effects on the inter-connected impacts on social, cultures, health, economic systems, and ecosystem functioning. A holistic and integrative approach is imperative to adequately address the threats and enable sustainable, resilient, sufficient, inclusive, equitable and “smart” outcomes. The parameters are expanding, as it must be, with new concepts, knowledge, and experience.

Integration is required not only of disciplines and sectors, but also of processes and institutions. The vision, objectives, goals, policies, strategies, means, institutions, and governance must all be aligned and integrated. A Transformative Green Paradigm that encompasses the expanding holistic determinants is imperative for future pathways towards decarbonization, safer and cleaner materials, products and processes, a healthier and safer future, and holding global warming to 1.5°C, as strongly advocated by the IPCC Special Report.

**Education transformation** is also needed. Universities are a, if not the, main source of critical thinking, ideas, innovations, conceptual vigor, quest for knowledge, learning, and human resource development to meet the current and future requirements. Opportunities need to be facilitated and supported by the private and public sector as well as by international organizations for universities to play a more central role in promoting and implementing transformative green development.

With mutual benefits, there are significant opportunities for forming new, innovative and sustaining partnerships amongst Universities, the Public, Private Sectors and international organizations.

## The Urgency of Now

It is a truism that the past determines the present, which shapes the future. For a Future Sustainable Asia, the theme of the Bangkok Forum 2018, there is an urgency of *now* at this Forum. The Forum could consider crafting *A Commitment NOW*, enlisting the Forum participants to join and form a vanguard to catalyze actions toward a transformative green paradigm—a Future We Need.



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

### PLENARY SESSION I:

## Tackling Inequality with Enabling Knowledge in Asian Development

Session brief: Dr. Susan Vize

In 1919, Rudolf Steiner presented six public lectures under the title, “The Social Future: Culture, Equality and the Economy,” where he proposed that a healthy social organism consisted of three spheres of society: the cultural sphere, including art, science, religion, and education; the legal-political sphere; and the economic sphere. As we continue to discuss how to achieve sustainability in the 21st Century, the new dialogue on the UN 2030 agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adds a further dimension to peace building as it threads the concept of human rights and equality across all spheres.

From our current view, the outlook often seems to be problematic and uncertain. Thus, opening the way to an improved future remains a key challenge. In terms of knowledge production, the boundaries that exist between disciplines remain marked while new frontiers of science wait to be explored. Yet, the future is a concept that transcends across disciplinary boundaries and links between the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. Therefore, only by stepping across these boundaries can we examine what possible futures might emerge within key domains of human and social activity. Overcoming the knowledge divide is necessary to: achieve a sustainable social future; reduce social inequality; increase environmental protection; and decrease conflicts. This is also a common challenge in connecting the SDGs to create an integrated platform for a sustainable future.

A second challenge is connecting academic knowledge with the reality of people on the ground. This link is necessary so we can talk with each other about the future challenges that humanity is facing. Improving citizen participation is fundamental to achieving the quality of life envisioned in the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs provide a platform for social dialogue to talk beyond individual perspectives.

This plenary session will address the following questions:

1. How can we turn a situation of differences and separations to one of collaboration? What are the challenges to link the knowledge of different disciplines such as the natural sciences and social sciences for the future?
2. How can we synchronize or align the views of policy makers, social activists and academics towards a sustainable future beyond knowledge divides?
3. How can people from diverse backgrounds collaborate towards attaining an inclusive and sustainable future?



## ABSTRACTS

### 1. Inequality and Sustainability: Three Riddles

Professor Dr. Pasuk Phongpaichit

When people think about tackling inequality, they think about high costs—about wasteful populist policies, about high taxes, and so on. This paper suggests changing the mindset and asking instead “what is the cost of not addressing inequality?” The paper also discusses the impact of economic policies and globalization on inequality.

Keywords: *inequality, sustainability, tax, Asia*

### 2. Challenge to Professionalism: Citizen Deliberation in the Decision-making Process around Nuclear Power Policy in Korea

Professor Seejae Lee

Deliberative polling of citizens in South Korea pertaining to the decision of whether to resume construction of the *Shingori* No.5 and No.6 nuclear reactors signifies a significant shift in Korean politics. Nuclear power plant construction and the siting of nuclear waste storage have been violent focal issues of social and political conflicts in Korea. Although President Moon Jae In declared a de-nuclearization energy policy, he announced that the final decision on *Shingori* reactors would be made through a social consensus process. This process was managed by the national public discourse commission formed in July 2017. The commission conducted a survey of 20,006 respondents statistically sampled in proportion to factors of the total population. Of these, a 500-person group was selected to participate in a two-month deliberative procedure that involved lectures, information dissemination, Q&A sessions, and group discussion sessions. In the final three-day group session, deliberative polling was conducted and the results directly led to policy changes. Korean citizens have been empowered to play a decisive role in decision-making processes, replacing the hegemonic power of professionals and technocrats to decide vital national policy. This shift from the powers of professionals to citizens is just one of many important social and political changes that the candlelight revolution has brought forth since 2017.

Keywords: *deliberative polling, de-nuclearization, candlelight, professionalism, democratization*

### 3. Circular Economy: The Future We Create

Mr. Sakchai Patiparnprechavud

This paper lays out the urgent concerns of alarming climate change, global environmental debacles and resource scarcity as well as how the circular economy, encompassing 8 principles and 5 business models, is viable solution. The Siam Cement Group (SCG) has long been integrating UN Sustainable Development Goals into its sustainable development framework, reinforcing the circular economy concept to achieve challenging missions. Embedded into the business value chain, SCG has implemented several practical solutions in its chemicals, cement and building materials, and packaging businesses. These range from product design to lengthen durability and increasing waste utilization in manufacturing processes, to pioneering end-to-end waste management programs. In addition to individual corporate effort, SCG has experience in leading collaboration efforts among various stakeholders to attain awareness and commitment to inspire others to pursue the benefits of a circular economy approach.



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

### PLENARY SESSION II:

## Challenges of Social Justice in Asia

Session brief: Associate Professor Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak

The world around us is never at a standstill, constantly undergoing changes enabled and imposed by ever-newer cutting-edge technologies, ideas, rules and institutions. Fueled by global economic integration and facilitated by infrastructure connectivity, these changes have brought uneven gains and benefits within and across societies. Some have gained more from economic growth, globalization and attendant technological innovations than others, while many have been marginalized and excluded altogether. Those who have prospered from growth and globalization are poised and positioned to maintain their well-being, but as gaps widen and inequality deepens within and across countries, those who are marginalized are required more and more to fend for themselves with limited means, tools and skill sets necessary to sustain lives and livelihoods. Accordingly, a consensus has emerged among scholars, practitioners, policymakers and all other stakeholders in a multilayered and multifaceted fashion that issues and challenges of social sustainability are best addressed as a whole. Social sustainability requires an integrated approach, probing different dimensions such as equity, diversity, quality of life, democracy and other measures of sustenance and well-being collectively and comprehensively. In this session, panelists from diverse backgrounds will share their experience and expertise on critical aspects of social justice and injustice based on personal observations and efforts. This session will also explore issues not only in national contexts, but also in regional and international frameworks. It will discuss how the struggles for social justice are interconnected and how they may need to be approached with a refreshed and recalibrated mindset. Where are the opportunities for solidarity and progress among various initiatives and movements across borders? How can an international advocacy play a role in promoting social justice in Asia? How can cross-sectoral collaboration overcome these challenges?

### ABSTRACTS

#### 1. The Importance of Social Value in the Age of Sustainability: The Experience of Korea

Professor Dr. Jaeyeol Yee

By way of raising the question “is Korea socially sustainable?” this presentation aims to answer the importance of the social value, and its implementation in society. Korea is believed to have achieved “the miracle of the Han River” by rapid economic growth and peaceful transition to democracy during the last five decades. This is evidenced by the fact that Korea is now ranks number 12 among economic powers and is a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD. The Gross National Income in PPP (Public Private Partnership) is close to most developed European countries, such as France, UK, and Italy. Yet there are growing negative symptoms that are contradictory to social sustainability. Low birth rates and an aging population threaten social reproduction. Extremely long working hours coupled with low levels of happiness and high levels of suicide reveal the paradox of affluence. Declining trust and structural corruption are obstacles to legitimate and efficient governance. As a result, competitiveness of



the country has declined during the last ten years. There is certainly a social limit to growth as Fred Hirsch predicted. The problem is closely interrelated with the poor quality of institutions and social relations. By introducing the concept of social quality (SQ), defined as “the extent to which people are able to participate in the social, economic and cultural life of their communities under conditions which enhance their well-being and individual potential,” I have measured the SQ of Korea, and it shows that Korea is ranked 28th among 30 OECD countries. The result shows that social values, such as justice, equality, solidarity, and capability must be established to enhance the society to be safer, more embracing, more trustful, and more empowering. In this regard, social value is a key integral part to achieving sustainability. Special attention is given to value-oriented capitalism. As society becomes more hyper-connected through information, the boundary between corporations and wider society is getting more open. In addition to financial value, corporations pursuing social value in more innovative ways can enhance their legitimacy as well as economic profit. Corporations pursuing both economic and social value, or firms of endearment, perform better and contribute better to sustainability.

Keywords: *social value, social quality, conscious capitalism*

## 2. People-Oriented Justice Reform

Dr. Suntariya Muanpawong

Although Thailand is accustomed to the reform process and every reform movement demands justice reform, why has justice reform not been achieved in the country? Old approaches to justice reform focused on improvement of the criminal justice process. Reform questions included how to reform the police and courts, who should control whom, should new organizations be established, how many positions should be increased, how can justice officers be more “independent,” and so on.

The agendas of similar criminal justice reforms in other countries went further than Thailand’s, raising issues such as the ability to access justice and the establishment of a jury system. Other countries have developed the concepts of victim justice, restorative justice, and community justice. The accountability of justice officers was prioritized; people’s representatives on justice boards were welcome, and justice dialogues were widely appreciated.

In Thailand, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law professors (mostly men) have been appointed many times as special reform commissioners. They frequently held meeting after meeting, sometimes conducting some quick research and proposing new legislation. Yet the implementation of laws and the responsiveness to the people’s demands have rarely been evaluated. This was a typical “power-oriented” official approach.

Injustices vary in Thailand from conflicts between social groups to gender bias and insensitivity, injustice for the disabled and the elderly, and discrimination from racism or religious radicalism. Far beyond individual difficulties, there is unfair conduct among members of communities. Social and economic injustices include unfair competition in the market and trade system. Without food and agricultural justice, health equity and political fairness, there is no peace in the society. Apart from internal injustices global unfair treatment, especially the dominant role of multinational corporations also has severe negative consequences on Thailand. Justice reform therefore is today viewed in a wider sense; justice is not only retributive,



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

but also distributive. It is not achieved by court cases alone, but also by laws and policies. It requires a change in how officers of the justice system and the wider public view and practice justice.

In order to achieve an ideal justice reform, we need a new paradigm for the reform process. In order for the people to set their own agendas, more participation in the process must be guaranteed. The reform procedures and the reform boards should be democratized. A people-oriented approach must be fully introduced. The people must work hard with all justice-relevant officers in a wider sense. They should be the reform's co-owners at every level. They must create the culture of justice by themselves and practice fairness among each other.

### 3. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Border Communities

Dr. Cynthia Maung

While a new era of democracy has brought hopes to the people of Burma since the 2012 election, the ethnic communities in Eastern Burma still face human rights violations such as land confiscation and forced displacement. Among the obstacles to fully enjoy their human rights, poor access to essential health care services is prevalent. This has resulted in high maternal and under-five mortality rates in Eastern Burma. In addition, conflicts and economic insecurity have led thousands of people from Burma to flee to Thailand. Among them, especially women and children are undocumented and thus left vulnerable to exploitation and face further obstacles in accessing essential health services and protection. Improving the capability of women to fully realize their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) is a priority in this situation. SRHR includes access to safe delivery, reproductive health, ability to develop identity, access to family planning, and post-abortion care.

Community based organizations as well as ethnic health organizations along the border and in Eastern Burma have collaborated with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and government bodies to improve accessibility to essential health services, including reproductive health, and to steer toward a sustainable system of service delivery for the community. This effort is made by building community capacity in providing health services in their own areas and strengthening a holistic health system. This includes establishing a health information system, strengthening the existing health system and policy, and developing skills of health workers. The results have shown improvements in access to safe delivery, obstetric emergencies, family planning, referral pathways to safe abortion, post abortion care, and birth registration, as well as treatment courses for cases of sexual and gender based violence.

The ongoing challenges consist of lack of recognition for community health workers by the national government, a prevalence of unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortions due to inaccessibility to sexual and reproductive health and rights, the statelessness of children due to their parents' undocumented status, and cross-sector collaborations that are deterred by political agendas.

*Keywords: health as human rights, sexual and reproductive health & rights, capacity building, community empowerment, health system strengthening*



#### 4. Confronting the Archetypes of Singularity, Fear, and Intolerance

Professor Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed

Violent extremist narratives are nothing new. Human history is full of narratives that recount the tragic consequences of violent extremism, contributing to the death and destruction of human lives and property. Both secular and religious discourses, with their respective emphasis on singularity, are responsible for violent extremism. The list would include Hitler and Mussolini as much as it would include Osama bin Laden, ISIS, and the 969 Movement within and beyond Myanmar. The questions that merit attention are, 1) whether such narratives deter or reproduce violent extremism, and 2) if they have always existed in history, why are they receiving renewed attention in contemporary times?

The number of people killed by terrorism is extremely low compared to other causes. In 2012, about 56 million people died throughout the world; of these 620,000 died due to human violence. War killed 120,000 people, while crime killed 500,000. In contrast, 800,000 people committed suicide, mainly in developed countries. In 2012, only 7,697 people across the globe died in terrorist-related incidents. Interestingly, around the same period, in 2010, some 1.5 million died of diabetes, while obesity and related illnesses killed about 3 million. Given these numbers, why has the death of 7,697 people transformed humans into *hauntological*, or fearful of terrorism, while the fear of annual deaths of over a million people from diabetes and obesity is insignificant? A quick answer will be that the latter deaths are somewhat “voluntary,” while the terrorist-related deaths are involuntary. As perpetrators commit suicide using improvised explosive devices, acts of terrorism are nothing less than a “leap beyond reason” or post-rational act, with the possibility of anyone, anywhere, anytime becoming a victim. And here lies the fear.

Since the tragic history of violent extremism has now become a part of our “collective unconscious” and has evolved into “archetypes” over the centuries, very much in the sense outlined by Carl Gustav Jung. As Jung reminded us, the contents of the collective unconscious “come from the brain—indeed, precisely from the brain and not from personal memory-traces, but from the inherited brain-structure itself.” In this sense, the “collective unconscious” and the “archetypes” are not acquired, but inherited. To follow Jung further on this, the archetype of fear or intolerance, for instance, is “not disseminated only by tradition, language, and migration, but that they can rearise spontaneously, at any time, at any place, and without any outside influence.” Dealing with the archetype of fear is therefore the only option; any attempt to obliterate it will reproduce it further. As Jung noted, “When spirit is neglected it becomes the source of many pathologies.” But “dealing with it” must also defy and overcome “singularity.” Multi-layered, multi-versed interventions are required for countering violent extremist narratives, not only nationally, but also regionally and globally.



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

### PLENARY SESSION III:

## University and Public Engagement: Transgressive Learning and Action

Session brief: Dr. Bharat Dahiya

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* has been instrumental in raising public awareness on environmental sustainability issues worldwide. The Agenda focuses on five critical dimensions of sustainable development: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. The notion of partnership underlines the importance of governments at different levels working with non-state actors such as civil society, the private sector, knowledge institutions, including universities, and the media. There is also an increasing need to embrace a larger framework for social sustainability in which attention is paid to the role of universities and their public engagement.

In their conventional role, universities have focused on developing pedagogies and methodologies for the production of scientific knowledge. Universities have often acted as “research institutions” for governments and contributed to public policy. Yet, universities need to do more than what they are conventionally accustomed to do to be able to contribute more meaningfully to the science-policy-action interface. The good news is that universities are increasingly taking the role of “platform provider,” to help mobilize old and new sources of knowledge to attain social sustainability.

Moving forward, as public awareness on social sustainability expands, universities need to develop and realize a co-learning and knowledge co-production interface with diverse institutions and the general public working on tackling sustainability challenges. New configurations of science-policy-action learning, with an emphasis on public service, are being called upon to secure a sustainable future for Asia and the world. Thus, universities need to reflect on their roles in transformative and transgressive learning and action through their policies, pedagogies, curricula, research and extension work.

In view of the foregoing, this plenary session will address the following questions:

1. With regard to achieving social sustainability, what are some of the new findings in universities’ engagement with public vis-à-vis transgressive learning and action in Asia?
2. What kind of new research-policy-action linkages can help universities in better responding to sustainability challenges?
3. In which ways can stakeholders and partners working on social sustainability support the transformation of higher education institutions (HEIs), in relation to their policies, pedagogies, curricula and research to nurture future leaders and serve society in various dimensions?



## ABSTRACTS

### 1. The Zones of Proximal Development for Universities and Civil Society:

#### Lesson Learnt from the Fukushima Radiation Disaster

Ms. Mariko Komatsu

According to questionnaires, people generally have more trust in universities among other public institutions that provide information. However, in the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, most universities did not make use of their visibility and creditability to ease the people's anxiety about radiation. Many experts failed to explain the disaster in lay people's terms and establish proper communication channels with affected populations.

The civil movement, on the other hand, rekindled then-existing groups and helped form new groups to meet the needs of people in the disaster. As years passed, many civil groups came to face increasing challenges to sustain their activities and it is a serious concern that a record of their activities and experience has not been archived, as it can be a vital resource to prepare for and respond to the next radiation disaster.

This paper describes observations during the Fukushima disaster among universities and some civil groups, including the roles they played and the challenges they faced. I will refer to the idea of "the zone of proximal development," borrowed from Vygotsky, as a proposal for possible collaboration between these two groups to encourage more sustainable efforts in recovery and reconstruction from the radiation disaster.

### 2. Empowering Generations of Young Leaders through Theory, Practice and Participation

Mr. Khamphoui Saythalat

Education is a critical component of human development worldwide. Although education and development are closely linked and should reflect each other, the education system is often driven by economic growth rather than by a balance among environmental, cultural and economic dimensions. Young citizens are generally not actively engaged in the development process and only few of them in Laos have the necessary leadership skills, technical knowledge, and managerial skills to meaningfully engage in the social and development process. It is critical for all stakeholders and partners to cooperate to support future leaders, to transfer knowledge and skills to youth so that they can become responsible adults with relevant skills and engage in the development process of a caring society. This presentation describes the development experiences and knowledge of the Participatory Development Training Centre (PADETC) in building the capacity of civic groups, especially youth, through practical learning activities. An example of the concept of a learning cycle of "Theory, Practice and Participation" being used by PADETC will be shared.



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

### 3. Language Revitalization as a Case of University-Community Knowledge Co-creation

Dr. Toshiyuki Doi

Since the mid-1990s, the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia (RILCA) at Mahidol University, led by Dr. Suwilai Premasirat, has helped some 20 ethnic minority groups across Thailand revitalize their endangered languages and cultures. I view this program as a case of knowledge and action co-creation between a university and a local community and show how it started, what it has brought about, and what remains to be challenged based on my own involvement in a specific collaborative project, namely the Chong Language Revitalization Project (CLRP). Chong is a Mon-Khmer ethnolinguistic minority living in eastern Thailand. About 2,000 speakers still use Chong, but most of them are in their 50's or older. When Chong elders were at school, they were told by their teachers not to speak Chong because doing so would affect their academic performance. They also stopped speaking Chong at home to their children. Chong elders were thus delighted when Dr. Suwilai and her colleagues showed great interest in Chong and offered to help them revitalize the language. As one of its major activities, CLRP developed Chong orthography based on Thai scripts. Orthography development made it possible to start teaching Chong at local primary schools. Collaboration with Chong and other minority groups has brought about various opportunities at RILCA through academic courses, seminars, and so on, to learn about Thailand's linguistic and cultural diversity. RILCA's intellectual resources, among others, has enabled Dr. Suwilai to encourage the government to establish a more embracing national language policy, which recognizes ethnolinguistic minorities. CLRP has also enhanced Chong's identity as a distinctive ethnic group. It has yet to put Chong back into use in the community life, however. The use of Chong is still confined to school. Chong adults must develop opportunities to speak Chong with one another as well as with their children and grandchildren.

*Keywords: Chong, ethnolinguistic minority, identity, knowledge co-creation, linguistic revitalization*

### 4. City as a Classroom: Urban Citizenship, Social Space, and Pedagogic Experiences from Indonesian Cities

Mr. Ahmad Rifai

The presentation will focus on showcasing the pedagogic experiences of several urban initiatives in Indonesian cities. Framing cities as contested social space, the presentation acknowledges the existing gap between academic or theoretical know-how and everyday life and practices. By looking at examples from different cities in Indonesia, the presentation will describe a range of practical approaches in how to best link urban initiatives and activism with particular learning processes. Scholars, activists, informal dwellers, urban citizens, and civil servants engage in pedagogic activities in which the participatory process can maintain harmonious engagement and the co-production of knowledge.



## PLENARY SESSION IV:

## Peddling Inequality to Social Sustainability in ASEAN

Session brief: Dr. Thorn Pitidol

Inequality remains one of the most formidable challenges for most countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), affecting their social stability and condemning the majority of their population to only a small share of the benefits from economic development. This panel aims to provoke new thinking on the nature of inequality in ASEAN and encourage creative ideas on this problem's solutions. An understanding of inequality from different perspectives is provided, with the focus on insights from actual experiences of people's lives. To complement such perspectives, the panel will raise questions over the meaning and relevance of development intervention in improving people's living conditions. The discussion will also encompass certain transformative social policies, already implemented and impacting the lives of millions, ranging from decentralization in Indonesia and social reform in the Philippines to housing policy in Singapore. Lastly, a broader perspective on policies to promote sustainable development for ASEAN will be discussed.

## ABSTRACTS

## 1. Both Worse and Better Than It Seems: From Inequality Data to Inequality Experiences

Professor Dr. Jonathan Rigg

In this paper I start with the inequality data from Southeast Asia and use that briefly to survey what the data tell us about inequality processes over time. I then turn to the main part of the paper, which is to explore what these data omit and overlook in terms of how inequality is experienced. Drawing on work from Laos, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, the paper argues that in reducing inequality to data points, such statistical approaches miss much of what is important when it comes to understanding the sources and consequences of economic and social transformation. When this is brought into the frame, then inequality becomes both better and worse than it at first appears.

Keywords: *inequality, Asia, livelihoods*

## 2. Welfare State-building in Europe and East Asia: Political Economy Lessons

Associate Professor Dr. Veerayooth Kanchoochat

Welfare states have become a role model for today's developing countries that attempt to achieve equitable development. However, the adoption of taxation and redistributive measures is no guarantor of a successful replication, but rather leads to fiscal deficits and contentious politics in the host countries. This paper seeks to draw institutional and political-economic lessons from the experience of welfare state-building in Europe and East Asia. In the European cases, it discusses how the effective, transparent mechanisms for redistribution have been developed and how they could maintain economic growth while providing generous welfare packages. In the East Asian cases, the focus is on how they incorporated welfare schemes into national development strategies. The paper also emphasizes the varieties of welfare-state types in both regions to understand more fully their multiple paths towards equitable development.



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

### 3. Who are the Furthest Behind in Asia and the Pacific? Measuring Inequality of Opportunity

Ms. Ermina Sokou

While average access to opportunities, such as health care, education, and basic household services, has increased in Asia and the Pacific, not everyone has benefitted equally. Unequal access to opportunities has left large groups of people behind. Inequality of opportunity in Asia and the Pacific contributes to widening inequalities of outcomes, particularly in income and wealth. In turn, these income and wealth inequalities aggravate and perpetuate intergenerational disadvantage or advantage. To measure inequality of opportunity, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has used the dissimilarity index (D-index) for 14 opportunities. The D-index allows for a comparison of inequality levels among countries, as well as a further decomposition of the observed inequality into the circumstances that contribute mostly to it. ESCAP has also delved deeper into available datasets to identify those households and individuals that are left behind, using classification trees.

### 4. Regional Community Building in Southeast Asia: The Need to Pursue Social Sustainability and Social Innovation

Dr. Chheang Vannarith

Social innovation is a novel solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable, and just than current solutions. The value created accrues primarily to society rather than to private individuals. Social innovation is about linking the “bees” with the “trees” or between the “supply of ideas” with the “demand for ideas.” To incubate innovations we need to provide a “safe” and “open” space for collaboration and experimentation. One of the key tools of social innovation is to promote multi-stakeholder dialogues and co-create innovative ideas and policy inputs. Small social businesses or organizations are becoming more innovative in their solutions to address social needs and issues. Entrepreneur revolution, mainly facilitated by technological revolution particularly in information and community technology, is the driving force of social innovation in the region. Some components of social innovation include social ventures or social impact investment, and social purpose business management or social entrepreneurship.

There five main phases of social innovation including the identification of social problem and unmet social needs, the development of innovative solutions, promotion of cross-sector fertilization, the valuation of the effectiveness of solutions, the scaling up of social impacts. Concerning cross-sector fertilization, we need to promote the exchange of ideas and values, shifts in roles and relationships of actors across sector, and integration of private capital with public and philanthropic support. Some of the means to promote social innovation are to build platforms to socialize the ideas (i.e. multi-stakeholder dialogues on social innovation for social sustainability), develop online collaboration and networking tools for social innovation for social sustainability, and create web-based solutions to particular social needs and challenges.

Southeast Asian countries need invest more in social innovation both in terms of policy development and implementation facilitation. Financial resource is required to support social innovators or entrepreneurs to grow and scale up their impacts. Innovations help scale up along a continuum from creation of ideas to diffusion of ideas and organic growth of social enterprises. The ultimate goal of innovation is to realize an inclusive, sustainable and resilient society.



## PARALLEL SESSION 1 (PS1):

## Crises of Sustainability in ASEAN: Urgent Proposals for Creative Institutionalization of Transformative Learning

Session brief: Mr. Theodore Mayer

Asia is not immune to the global crises of sustainability that increasingly affect not only our eco-systems, but also our relationships, livelihoods, and the continuity of what is precious in our diverse traditions and age-old civilizations. It is the view of many that institutions of higher learning can play a key role in disseminating the knowledge that is urgently needed in our time and in cultivating awareness and compassion, especially among young adults, so they will be prepared to engage thoughtfully and openheartedly with a world in rapid change. To play this role, however, those of us working in higher learning in and out of formal educational structures must take the lead in innovating with the resources and opportunities we now have. Neither business-as-usual within the academic world, nor purely technical or technological fixes, are likely to be sufficient for the tasks facing us.

This panel presents explorations as well as case studies of experiments in transformative learning pedagogies in India, Malaysia and Thailand against the background of Asian and global threats to sustainability.

What are the guiding principles, methodologies and innovations in the design of higher learning that will help us address the challenges of unsustainability? What are the prospects for harnessing these new ideas and practices to bring about genuine change at an individual and societal level in this generation as well as across the generations? Can they instill in us a healing sense of urgency as we face the consequences of a largely destructive development practice? What resistance, risks and opportunities will arise in embedding them into the mainstream context of formal educational institutions? Can they contribute to the creation of an ecologically and socially sustainable Asia by 2030? And beyond?

### ABSTRACTS

#### 1. Can Study Trips save Asia?: A Case Study of the SASS “In Search Of” Study Trips

Associate Professor Dr. Yeoh Seng-Guan

Between 2004 and 2016, I organized annual non-credit bearing extra-curricular study trips throughout various parts of Southeast Asia for the School of Arts & Social Sciences, Monash University Malaysia. During this period, some 220 competitively selected student-travelers from different countries were taken to meet with a range of civil society groups, public intellectuals, academics and activists working on addressing various important issues affecting their local communities and localities. Their daily tasks were to fill up a collective blog in real time with reflections and stories generated from these sessions and other non-formal encounters. They were assisted by student-guides from local host universities.

This presentation assesses the impact of these study trips based on interviews with about 10 percent of all former student-travelers. What lessons can we draw from the pedagogies used in these study trips and the ongoing challenges facing the sustainability of transformative learning opportunities for young adults after university life?

Keywords: *study trips, Southeast Asia, transformative learning*



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

### 2. How Innovations in the Higher Learning Classroom Can Help Transform the Growing Crises of Climate Change and Social Inequality in Asia: A Concrete Proposal

Mr. Theodore Mayer

In this paper the author argues that the current and onrushing crises of climate change, increasing social inequality, and other related crises will require deep changes in institutions of higher learning. No one has a precise road map for those changes. Yet it is possible to set a direction with confidence, to take concrete steps one by one, and to reevaluate them as we go. The more people who are actively experimenting with guiding higher learning towards responsiveness to these crises, the more confident we can become as a result of the lessons derived from each other's innovations. This paper builds on one such experiment: a program of transformative learning developed over the past four years and directed at university age and older students from around Asia and the world. The School of English for Engaged Social Service (SENS) was designed to be a place for learning English as a tool for leadership, self-cultivation, and social transformation appropriate to our times. The author argues for a deep shift in values and priorities in higher learning institutions, effectively turning them into vehicles for reclaiming our humanity. That reclamation is necessary because we have lost the way to a large extent. It is a project of reclamation because there are benign impulses and capacities that we can observe to have flowered within human beings either historically or within our own personal lives and circles. We can identify them, work to strengthen them, and in this way reclaim them as important features of our lives now, and of our institutions. The core dimensions of this project include reclaiming our integrity, our connection, our power, and our ability to take joy in living, to play, and to imagine possibilities. The author illustrates how the SENS program has worked to realize each of these core dimensions. He concludes that reclaiming our humanity through higher education that is responsive to the needs of our time will also necessarily lead to a discovery of aspects of our humanity that we have previously only glimpsed indistinctly.

Keywords: *transformative learning, global crisis, higher education, social sustainability*

### 3. Going Beyond Hegemonic Stories and Silos: Towards a Transdisciplinary School of New Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. M. Nadarajah (Nat)

We are faced with unprecedented social and ecological realities throwing up sites of pain and suffering, death and destruction, and all round loss of happiness and wellbeing. Sadly, we also do not have the sense of urgency to address this eco-socio-emergency, mindlessly endangering the futures of the young. Deep in the heart of the eco-socio-emergency are stories that we all live by. They are based on unexamined assumptions we hold on to, to have "a good life." It involves the corporate liquidation of Earth in which we are all implicated, individually and institutionally. We need four or more planet Earths to maintain our present lifestyles and the stories we live by. Education has become a profitable business enterprise largely corporatized and dependent on meta-stories promoting mindless growth of "good life." Silos-creating humanities and social sciences simply socially reproduce the system feeding stories that destroy our societies and Nature.



Transformational learning is about becoming critically aware of assumptions and expectations of stories we live by and assessing their relevance to sustainable social existence. It helps create counter-hegemonic stories. Transdisciplinarity celebrates the transgression of disciplinary boundaries, surpassing multidisciplinary and interdisciplinarity. It is about healing the violence of silo-creating social sciences and humanities. “New Humanities” is now upon us. The world has given birth to many critical humanist trends, movements, and initiatives, which are guided by a sense of being and degrowth, social justice, inclusivity, and public compassion that animates, offering new sustainable stories to live by.

At Xavier Centre for Humanities and Compassion Studies in Bhubaneswar, India, we are exploring the new breakaway pathways. It is an initiative to rewrite stories that guide us; stories that should nurture non-violent compassionate futures.

## PARALLEL SESSION 2 (PS2):

### Development of a Framework for the Local Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Session brief: Professor Dr. Mario T. Tabucanon

The adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) affirms a shift from conventional to sustainable development, which advances the sustainability paradigm across a whole range of issues in social systems, the economy and the environment. It is imperative to translate these global agendas into action in local communities, and in this regard, higher education’s role is especially critical in creating the research and education programs required to address today’s development challenges.

The session will present the findings and discuss lessons learned from the ProSPER.Net Joint Project on “Development of a Framework for the Local Implementation of the SDGs” carried out by a number of the network’s member institutions, namely Keio University, Chulalongkorn University, TERI School of Advanced Studies and the University of the Philippines, Diliman, with the support of the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and UNESCO Bangkok. ProSPER.Net is an alliance of leading higher education institutions in the Asia-Pacific region which are committed to the transformation of higher education for sustainable development.

The session will examine case studies of current implementation of the SDGs at the local level to better understand local implementation in general and in case countries—Japan, India, Philippines and Thailand—as well as comparative analyses of the case studies to develop a curriculum framework on local implementation of the SDGs.



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

### ABSTRACTS

#### 1. Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of a Community in Toyooka, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

Professor Dr. Norichika Kanie

Research involving the practice of the SDGs in Japan was done in order to empirically study goal-based governance and implementation through an integrated approach. The target site for this case study is a district (Takahashi) in Toyooka City, Hyogo Prefecture. Takahashi's population is predicted to decline from 835 in 2018 to approximately 120 in 2060, one of the most dramatic declines of any district in the city. As Japan's national population is expected to decline in the future, this district is relevant as a Japanese case study to explore how to improve an area's sustainability in the context of the SDGs. As a result of the workshop, the local residents established priority targets for increasing the regional population and raising the "U-turn ratio" (future returnees) of the area, and this led to the conclusion that it was important to focus actions on young people. There was agreement that to accomplish this it would be important to have young people learn about the positive aspects of their region while still young. As a result, it was decided to focus on middle school education and create the context for middle school students to think about the connections between the region and their way of living, and implement actions designed to encourage consideration of the SDGs.

#### 2. Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of a Community in Nan Province, Thailand

Dr. Sayamol Charoenratana

For more than two decades, from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the SDGs, apart from economic growth, sustainable livelihood is promoted within the development agenda. Nonetheless, both the MDGs and SDGs have been introduced and implemented at global, regional and national levels, but less at local levels. The SDGs' "No one is left behind" concept, therefore, is one of the most radical and challenging concepts, particularly when focusing on the local level. Moreover, SDG initiatives at the local level require collaboration among private and public sectors, instead of state accountability alone. Hence, localizing SDGs has provided windows of opportunity to conduct such initiatives holistically and in a participatory manner. Strategically, the Roadmap for Localizing the SDGs has addressed four dimensions: awareness, advocacy, implementation and monitoring of SDGs. Still, the rural community in Nan could not understand the official SDGs language, indicating that it is required to translate within each context and according to various perceptions. Furthermore, the lack of decentralized governmental infrastructure could not support the integration of local policy within national level. Whereas, the awareness of SDGs among rural people is vague, their long-term goals are similar to some SDGs. So, while raising awareness among rural people needs more learning process to tackle this barrier, the advocating for decentralization is also essential. Connecting the SDGs to peoples' needs is a priority. To attain SDGs at the local level, a bottom-up approach is obligatory. Local participation in SDGs begins with the vision for a better life, especially for their children.

Keywords: *localizing, SDGs, implementation, awareness, Thailand*



### 3. Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of a Community in Quezon City, the Philippines

Professor Dr. Nestor Castro

In the past, strategies for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were only developed at the national, and in some cases, regional levels. There are no clear-cut strategies on how the SDGs will be implemented at the local level, such as by local government units and community members themselves. This paper looks at how the SDGs are localized in an urban community in the Philippines, namely the Barangay UP Campus in Quezon City. This study was undertaken as part of a one-year research project of the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network (ProSPER. Net) entitled “Development of a Framework for the Local Implementation of the SDGs” undertaken in the India, Japan, the Philippines, and Thailand.

The University of the Philippines, Diliman collaborated with the local government of Barangay UP Campus in implementing the Philippine study. Several activities were undertaken for the study, namely:

1. Desktop research on the policy instruments of the Philippine government to be able to attain the SDGs;
2. Interfacing with the local government units of Quezon City and Barangay UP Campus to secure their permission and support;
3. Gathering baseline socio-economic data;
4. Conducting workshops with various community stakeholders; and
5. Poster and logo competition for elementary and high school students.

Through a consultative process, Barangay officials and community members agreed on the need to attain the SDGs in their particular village. However, greater emphasis was given on the first four SDGs, namely: 1) No poverty; 2) No hunger; 3) Good health and well-being; and 4) Quality education. Three Filipino values were identified as facilitating mechanisms to attain the SDGs, namely: *Bayanihan* (cooperation); *Pagtitipid* (prudence); and *Malasakit* (empathy). Moreover, a sample learning module on the SDGs together with a teacher’s guide was developed aimed for basic level education. This module has been pre-tested with elementary and high school students and was eventually approved by the country’s Department of Education.

Keywords: *sustainable development goals, Filipino values, stakeholder engagement*

### 4. Framework for Local Implementation of SDGs: A Case Study of Delhi, India

Associate Professor Dr. Smriti Das

Responding to universal SDG goals, in India, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) began by identifying the existing policies and gaps. The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) prepared a list of national level indicators that align with the global goals. Following suit, the Government of national capital territory of Delhi (NCTD) prioritized several issues in accordance with the changing socio-economic-environmental context. Given this backdrop, the study tried to map



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

local implementation of SDGs in a three-step process: 1) mapping national and state policies, understanding the localization process, and identifying stakeholders in implementation; 2) conducting a perception survey and stakeholder interviews to understand gaps, demands, and supply issues; and 3) conducting stakeholder interviews for understanding governance challenges and identifying scope for capacity building. The key parameters for assessing service quality were: availability and accessibility; affordability; and quality of services provided in the prioritized sectors of health and water and sanitation. Urban villages and squatter settlements were chosen for the perception study.

The findings on health indicators showed significant improvement at the state level, but lack of public health infrastructure and poor staff capacity and quality of services forced people to rely on private services. This increased out of pocket expenditures on health, disproportionately affecting the poorer segments, particularly in absence of financial assistance. The findings from water and sanitation showed supply shortfalls in potable water, leading to dependence on ground water and bottled water. Poor ratio of households with toilets and incomplete sewage network led to problems of open defecation and water contamination. This was aggravated by poor maintenance of drainage lines. There was lack of awareness and enforcement of waste segregation practices. The governance challenges pertained to centre-state jurisdictional issues; a centralized planning approach; absence of coordination and partnership between state, non-state actors, and citizens; planning and management deficiencies resulted in lack of accountability and performance outcomes; and, poor monitoring and evaluation and feedback cycles.

The study proposes a curriculum to build the capacity of professionals on SDG implementation, adequately grounding them in aspects of localization, improved governance structure, and decentralized planning approaches.

*Keywords: SDG implementation, perception study, health, water and sanitation, decentralized planning, Delhi*

### PARALLEL SESSION 3 (PS3):

## Ecological Crisis, Knowledge Imbalances and Innovation Strategy

Session brief: Mr. Boonthan T. Verawongse

Since the Industrial Revolution, there have been significant increases in the production of goods and services, trade and use of fossil fuels. Over this time, global population has grown rapidly. Environmental degradation imposed by local conditions poses unprecedented threats to the security of individuals and societies, with implications in the global context. According to a well-known study from the Stockholm Resilience Centre, we have already surpassed four of the nine “planetary boundaries” that define the safe operating space for humanity.

As of 2015, carbon dioxide levels were at 400 ppm and still climbing, biodiversity has dropped to 84%, up to about 22 teragrams per year of phosphorus and 150 teragrams per year of nitrogen are being added to the ecological systems, and deforestation has increased by 62%.

Given that human activity is central to the above-mentioned environmental issues, social sciences have a key role to play in analyzing and governing global environmental change. Although there are now



many studies regarding sustainable development, our knowledge in natural science and social science is not being effectively transferred across fields. To secure our societies, transformative change in knowledge production is necessary. This challenge opens the door to innovation, new ideas and new paradigms. In addition, awareness and wisdom for an environmental friendly society seems to be still lacking among policy makers as well as the general public. Climate Change, Global Warming, Natural and Human-made Disaster and Calamity, Pollution and Toxic Waste are all the result of this crisis. Therefore, it is essential to raise social and environmental awareness aimed at lifestyle adaptation, mode of production and ensuring environmental justice. Thus, many things need to be done in this regard.

On this panel, the evolution of recent thinking about the links between ecological crisis, scientific vs social knowledge imbalances and innovation strategies will be shared from different points-of-view by policy makers, the public and academics.

This session will address the following questions:

1. What are the challenges faced in making and strengthening links between the ecological crisis and social knowledge, or natural science versus social science?
2. What could be some effective innovative strategies and actions employed to overcome the challenges?
3. How can these actions and practices be accelerated and up-scaled to create a stronger and broader impact for societal change?

## ABSTRACTS

### 1. Mitigating Urban Flooding Impacts: Waste Management Service Sector

Associate Professor Dr. Chanathip Pharino

Municipal solid waste management (MSWM) service is the most significant public utility provision of cities. MSWM is a complicated system in terms of stocks and flows of waste in collection, transportation, and disposal processes. Characteristics of the complex network connection of MSWM become quite a challenge for developing the path to achieve sustainable management. This is particularly the case when any part of the waste management system is interrupted or disturbed by an external crisis or disaster. Flooding is a major natural disaster in many regions of the world. Urban flooding does not only affect municipal solid waste management systems within flooded areas, but also outside the flooded area. The system dynamics approach has been designed to study the complexity of municipal solid waste systems. The system dynamics model chose Bangkok's municipal solid waste management system as a case study to evaluate potential impacts of flooding to MSWM in Bangkok, Thailand. The results illustrate impact size for each flood scenario in terms of accumulated impacts and impacted areas in the case study. The impact size depends on (1) waste amounts in each sub-district, and (2) collection and transfer routes, which are related to the truck parking area. The study identified the vulnerable flood-prone areas and service areas of the waste management system. This study reveals valuable insights into the municipal solid waste management planning process under pressure of extreme external conditions such as flooding. The outputs of the study could be helpful to develop an effective approach to mitigate impacts from urban flooding on municipal solid waste management systems in the future.



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

### 2. Municipal Waste Management—Seeking the Balance between Efficiency and Participation

Associate Professor Dr. Kohei Watanabe

Urbanization and advancement of consumption have made it increasingly difficult for individual households to properly dispose of waste on their own. Hence municipalities are assigned the task of waste management. One strand of thought is that waste should be managed at the most local level under democratic principles and citizen participation. On the other hand, application of advanced pollution abatement technologies and the pursuit of cost efficiency favor a large-scale operation at a regional scale, spanning several localities. Some view source separation of waste as a citizen's duty for a smooth running of the system, while others consider that an advanced system is one that reduces the environmental impact without the need for troublesome separation. The presenter will demonstrate the pros and cons of different scales of operation, and of source separation versus centralized separation of commingled waste. In a nutshell, centralized systems are beneficial in achieving efficiency, while local systems are better in achieving equity and providing a beneficial feedback to the lifestyles of citizens. Possibilities on how to attain the benefits of both systems, and the future direction of waste management will be discussed.

Keywords: *solid waste, recycling, ecological modernization, participation, efficiency*

### 3. Citizen Science and Its Role as a Participatory Tool in Achieving SDGs (Under Threats of the Uncontrolled Movement of Toxic Waste)

Ms. Penchom Saetang

Citizen science is a guideline and way of working that many countries adopt to encourage scientists and the public to support each other for sustainable health and environment. In Thailand, citizen science projects to protect the environment and health have been set up by the Ecological Alert and Recovery — Thailand (EARTH) with the objective to strengthen a participatory role of public citizens in solving industrial pollution problems and the environmental threats of the uncontrolled transboundary movement of toxic waste. Citizen science is a way to combine the technical capacity of experts and civil society together with the experience of the impacted communities to conduct environmental surveillance, in particular for the communities nearby industrial factories. It allows needed data and evidence to be collected more practically and systematically. In some places it is called a community-based monitoring or participatory monitoring approach. Many citizens living and working in contaminated environments have hypotheses about emerging environmental and health damage based on daily observations and, in some cases, the loss of good health or lives among family members. However, rampant corruption and lack of transparency in industrial pollution management result in the dismissal of citizen concerns to prove damages and refusal to take responsibility. This approach enables citizens to collect simple but strategic scientific evidence to enhance the credibility of their complaints and increase their negotiating power. The reliable evidence from citizen science research will be able to support citizen concerns and public scrutiny of pollution problems. Public scrutiny is the most effective way to pressure corrupt government officials and polluters to take actions and it is a significant step toward achieving sustainable development goals.

Keywords: *Citizen Science, Ecological Alert and Recovery – Thailand, industrial pollution, community-based monitoring, public scrutiny*



## PARALLEL SESSION 4 (PS4):

## Human Capital Social Sustainability in the Context of Aging Asian Society

Session brief: Associate Professor Dr. Vipap Prachuabmoh

Since a fundamental principle of the Sustainable Development Goals is to “leave no one behind,” it is critical that efforts to advance these goals also enhance the opportunities for people from all backgrounds. Investing in human capital so all will reach their full potential is necessary for sustainable development, since the quality of a country’s human capital is central to reducing inequalities as well as promoting the well-being of its population and the country’s socio-economic and technological advancement. This session aims at examining the interrelation of human capital (such as education, health, employment, etc.), population aging and sustainable development in Asia. Integrating knowledge, research approaches and policy implications on various dimensions of human capital and SDGs in the context of an aging society will be discussed.

## ABSTRACTS

## 1. Gender and Socio-Economic Gaps in Educational Attainment and the Labor Market

Professor Gavin Jones

In developing countries, there have long been two major gaps in educational attainment: between males and females and between socio-economic groups. Both these gaps are lamented in official circles, but the gender gap has received more publicity from international aid agencies and in international forums. Even two decades ago, however, the gender gap was a pronounced feature of only some world regions—notably, South and West Asia and Africa. In these regions, it has now narrowed; and in some of the regions and countries where it was not pronounced (for example in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Latin America), it has since disappeared—indeed, reversed, in many cases. Meanwhile, the socio-economic gap has remained stubbornly wide. This presentation will consider, in particular, approaches to narrowing the socio-economic gap in educational attainment. But it will also examine an important remaining gender gap—the gap in labor market opportunities, and in pay scales, between men and women with similar educational backgrounds.

## 2. Productive Aging and Social Sustainability: Prospects, Opportunities and Challenges

Dr. Elke Loichinger

Social sustainability is a not-so-clearly defined concept that aims to capture aspects of sustainability that have not been included in or the focus of economic and environmental sustainability. In this presentation, an overview of how social sustainability has been defined by various actors and institutions is provided. These definitions are then related to select Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Finally, it will focus on the relevance of social sustainability and SDGs in the context of Asia’s aging societies, and areas in which achieving these goals will play a crucial role for healthy and productive aging are pointed out.

Keywords: *social sustainability, productive aging, SDGs*



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

### 3. Gender Equality in Education and Employment in Korea

Dr. Yoon-Jeong Shin

Korea, which has achieved enormous economic development in the past, is threatened by ongoing development, low birth rates, and population aging. According to the OECD (2012), however, Korea underutilizes the female labor force, which should be better used to face future labor shortages. Young Korean women perform better at school and complete tertiary education than young Korean men. This suggests that the targets of SDG 4 have been achieved in Korea. However, Korea ranks poorly compared with other OECD countries in terms of the female employment rate and the gender wage gap, which is the highest among OECD countries. Traditional gender roles and gender discrimination still exist in Korea. Although it seems that traditional gender roles of men and women are changing in Korea (men spend more time in childcare and housework than before), women continue to bear dual responsibilities both at home and work. Due to these burdens, not a few young women drop out of the labor market after marriage and childbirth, with negative consequences for further career development. Different gender roles are expected to emerge as hypogamous and hypergamous couples increase. Policy reforms in Korea, especially in the area of subsidizing childcare and parental leave payment system have been implemented to some extent. It is necessary that Korea's family policies target working women to improve the balance between work and family life. The recent feminist movement in Korea could be a momentum to enhance gender equality in the country. Developmental ideology, which was the driving force for the "Korean miracle" of the 1970s, should be transformed to reflect current demographic challenges. By making Korean society more family-friendly and gender-equal, the human capital of Korean women would be better utilized, guaranteeing sustainable development.

## PARALLEL SESSION 5 (PS5):

### The Heartware of Sustainability—Faith, Spirituality, and Local Wisdom

Session brief: Dr. Mochamad Indrawan

With ethics as a balancing force, the philosophy for sustainability deeply connects with spirituality. Contemporary examination of old economic and social dilemmas provide hind-sights and empirical evidence of how spirituality can provide much needed guidance to strengthen responses toward economic, social and ecological sustainability. As postulated by Dhiman & Marquez (Dhiman S & Marquez J (eds). 2018. *Spirituality and Sustainability. New Horizons and Exemplary Approaches*. Springer), if material development is to be sustainable, spiritual progress should be internalized as a good part of the algorithm of human development. Therefore, whereas states and non-state entities may exert their influences, it often comes back to the reliable spiritual powers of individuals to heal themselves, their community and the biosphere which is vital to survival of all living beings.

There are of course many valid interpretations of "spirituality." One would be held by the believers of God, with their text of wisdom that becomes the moral guidelines. In connecting with "sustainability,"



“spirituality” would provide guidelines that harbor the 5R principles, namely reference (to the text), redistribution (of welfare), respect (of others), restraint (in consumption and production) and restoring (resources that are finite and vulnerable). One example, from Indonesia, took an innovative approach, harnessing education at the grassroots, and then combining Islamic principles of environmental protection with traditional conservation methods (Mangunjaya FM & McKay, JE. 2012. Reviving an Islamic approach for environmental conservation in Indonesia. *Worldviews* 16: 286–305).

Society, however, continues to face the challenges toward developing adequate understanding of these principles and putting them into practice with Faith, Spirituality and Wisdom at the heart of sustainability. This session will illustrate the why, when and how.

## ABSTRACTS

### 1. Right Mindset in Development: Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

Dr. Priyanut Dharmapiya

In education, or business, experts know that growth mindset is a key factor for success, vis-à-vis the fixed mindset. It is apparent that different views of the world lead to different mindsets, which then lead to different behavior and also to different results. In the context of sustainable development, is there a right mindset that can guide us towards a sustainability that we all want?

Early Buddhism did put together a picture of a world as a collective system. In fact, the teachings emphasize the three characteristics of nature to contemplate the truth; *interdependence, ever-changing and suffering or stress*. These lead to what is known as the practice of Buddhist middle path. That is, when we see the world as it is truly, based on the three characteristics of nature, we will consider deeply the causal relations of our actions due to the interdependence of things. With ever-changing conditions, we have to always be alert and prepare for changes; for example, having a plan B, doing risk management, and so on. Suffering or stress comes from dissatisfaction, due to greed, untamed desire, under resource constraints, and so on, so we have to manage our desires and resources wisely.

The late King Bhumibol Adulyadej (1927-2016) of Thailand offered the “Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)” as guiding principles towards a balance and sustainable development. The three core principles are “*moderation*” to ease stress due to constraints, “*reasonableness*” through contemplating causal effects from interconnectedness, and “*prudence*” or being prepared for changes. The SEP has evolved from HMK’s long-time development work experiences as well as thorough understanding of the Buddhist teachings.

The underlying two conditions of the SEP that are critical for implementing sustainability are *virtues* and *wisdom*. All decisions are made in accordance with virtues and knowledge based on the three principles discussed above. Moreover, the outcomes of decisions based on SEP should always reflect balanced progress towards sustainability in four dimensions of life: economy, society, environment and culture.

Keywords: *right mindset, sustainable development, Buddhist teachings, Sufficiency Economy, local wisdom.*



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

### 2. Sustainability through Community Collaboration: Linking Rural Knowledge and Wisdom to Urban Challenges

Ms. Supa Yaimuang

Economic growth has caused urbanization in Thailand and expanded the offensive into the agriculture zone. The direction of urban development emphasizes modern buildings and convenience above environmental considerations and quality of life. Urban challenges including environmental problems, energy use and consumption link to the rural-based food system. People seeking self-reliance and security of their own food safety are creating city farms. People in the city grow their own vegetables, and expand into other activities, for example raising animals, food processing, and natural dyeing. These practices are adapted and developed from the wisdom of rural communities.

The knowledge of small farmers and communities about ecological farming, the varieties of rice and vegetables and local food is shared with city people and knowledge is exchanged between rural and urban peoples. This is followed by a supportive process to bring that knowledge into concrete practice. The city farm project has supported people in Bangkok and its suburbs to grow vegetables according to various models, such as growing on rooftops, in private gardens, around the house, and on public land. During the past decade, the experience of people engaged in the city farm project reflects a development of quality of life and awareness of the environment, signifying the formation of a balance to development, which not only produces food, but also links organic food from the farming community to consumers through different forms of marketing.

When people in the city start planting vegetables, they begin to understand the process of soil improvement and cultivation, and thus, nature. The importance of this learning process is the creation of knowledge that links vegetable growing with an understanding of nature and ecosystems, illustrating that the process of growing vegetables is part of human inner growth. Growing vegetables helps us to realize our own potential and value and makes the basis of human life grow stronger. If we start to learn and practice by growing vegetables, we can better understand nature. This insight is an offshoot of ecological urbanization and plays an important role in helping to develop and change the city to be alive and sustainable.

Keywords: *sustainability, city farming, ecological urbanization*

### 3. Making Spirituality Work for Sustainability: Transformative Learning of the People of the Forest Margins

Dr. Mochamad Indrawan

Banggai Islands district in Central Sulawesi is home to a suite of little known forests, with species of flora and fauna that live nowhere else in the world. From these rainforest remnants, the indigenous communities draw much of their wisdom and traditional knowledge. Longer term interactions with committed ecological researchers from outside the region since 2004 prompted the indigenous people to reflect on and reconstruct their traditional values and practices. Revitalized spirituality leads towards the paradigm of sustainability. The traditional community began to undertake commendable actions such as increased protection for the sacred places in the forests, controlling rampant hunting, and rehabilitating the forests. Community members also began to document their daily observations of nature and culture in



their own terms, not unlike true researchers, and in a mutual help modality, actually rebuild the traditional houses. This narrative chronicles the transformative learning that occupied the process, and considers the potential of traditional norms and values to enhance sustainable development.

#### 4. With and Beyond Sustainable Development: Towards New Planetary Heartworks and the Calling of Evolutionary Flourishing

Professor Ananta Kumar Giri

Sustainable development is a key challenge of our times, but the discourse of it is many a time locked in an existing status quo without foundational interrogation of the dominant and dominating frameworks of economy, polity, self, and society. We need to rethink and interrogate such a status-quoist understandings and practices of sustainable development and realize it as a multi-dimensional process of self and social transformations leading towards planetary realizations. Such a sustainable development goes beyond the prisons of nation-state centered rationality, productivist profit-maximization, and anthropocentrism, and contributes to planetary realizations. Planetary realizations challenge us to understand that all of us, including non-human beings and plants, are children of Mother Earth. Anthropogenic presence in the life of earth has created tremendous pressures on other life forms and matter. We need to conduct ourselves in a responsible way so that we nurture our Mother Earth as an abode of flourishing for all of us. Sustainable development involves responsibility, or rather, a process of becoming responsible. Sustainable development is not just a noun, it is also a verb; in fact it is a manifold verb of action, meditation, and transformation of self and society. Our engagement with sustainable development challenges us to move towards sustainable flourishing, which is part of a broader calling of evolutionary flourishing. In evolutionary flourishing, our challenge is not just sustaining what we have, but also abandoning many existing ideas and institutions and creating new modes of being, thinking, and institutional arrangements.

In this journey we can walk and meditate with many faith traditions of our world. We should not confine ourselves only to hardware issues of technology, economy, and politics, but also cultivate heartworks and heart meditations. This calls for rethinking and transforming existing categories of thinking and practice, such as economics, politics, and political economy. In my essay I argue how we need to rethink critiques of capitalism as offered by discourses such as political economy and link them to other related movements and themes, such as moral economy, moral sociology, and spiritual ecology. This will help us cultivate manifold paths and gardens of evolutionary flourishing.



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

### PARALLEL SESSION 6 (PS6):

## The Role of Think Tanks as Driving Force for a More Sustainable Asia

Session brief: Professor Jin Guangyao

In recent years, building think tanks in university systems has been promoted by the Chinese government as a way to better engage academic communities and resources in the course of social and economic development as well as the decision-making of China's international roles and relations. This panel focuses on the recent explorations of the top think tanks, those based at universities, in particular, in China, and investigates their operating model and practical paths to promote social sustainable development in contemporary China. Based on the cases in China, the role of think tanks as a driving force for a more sustainable Asia will be discussed further.

### ABSTRACTS

#### 1. Exploring a Practical Model of the Think Tank in the University

Associate Professor Yi Shen

The continuing development of globalization in a comprehensive way has significantly increased the requirement for high quantity consultation. At the same time, the development of the modern university that focuses on research has provided the possibility to build a new kind of think tank within the university whose main target is to provide theory-supported policy initiation and strategies with practical solutions. The main challenges to this include the development of the information and communications technology (ICT) represented high technologies, the conflict between theory oriented and policy oriented research, and the traditional academic centered assessment mechanism. These should be treated seriously. Fudan Development Institute is a classic example of a successful practicing think tank in a university in China.

#### 2. Examining the Denuclearization Process of the Korean Peninsula from Perspective of Peaceful Development

Associate Professor Li Chun Fu

The process of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula has entered a critical period of transformation. Chinese think tanks require two transformations to study the Peninsula issue. First, to reorient from past research on security and nuclear issues to research on peace. Second, to focus research on the transformation of the North Korean policy (such as reform and opening up). The process of denuclearization requires the integration of technical and political denuclearization. In the early stage of the process, technical denuclearization is needed to promote the normalization of DPRK-US relations, while the later stage mainly relies on the DPRK's initiative and denuclearization measures. From this point of view, the process of denuclearization and peaceful development are two sides of the same coin, and think tanks need more in-depth study.



### 3. The Characteristics of China's University Think Tanks and the Practical Path in Promoting Social Sustainable Development

Ms. Zhu Hongrui

As one of the largest gathering places of knowledge, universities are important for the promotion of sustainable development. A think tank is the best platform for establishing a bridge between knowledge and public policy, because it can integrate knowledge and influence the public very effectively. In order to introduce diverse talents and solutions, the Chinese central government has paid high attention to the role of think tanks since 2012. After nearly four years, China's university think tanks have developed significantly. There are three characteristics that are integral to China's think tanks: 1) they aim to promote the government's public policies; 2) they innovate according to China's actual situation; and 3) they have very close connections with the university. At the same time, China's think tanks promote social sustainable development, which includes setting a clearer plan of implementing sustainable development; sharing sustainable development models and experiences among various countries; tracking and evaluating the process of global sustainable development, and accelerating the process of international sustainable development discussions and negotiations.

*Key words: China's university think tanks, social sustainable development*

## YouthQuake Panel

Session summary: Assistant Professor Dr. Carl Middleton

It is a certainty that the youth are the future of society. The experience of the youth in contemporary society is a very different one to that of older generations. New challenges and opportunities exist for today's youth, who experience perhaps most directly the rapid changes that society is undergoing. In a world where new perspectives are urgently needed, the youth have an important contribution to make.

The "YouthQuake" session made a unique contribution to Bangkok Forum 2018. It first introduced and showed the "Chula YouthQuake" short film\* produced by Dr. Pasicha Chaikaew, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University, Dr. Supawan Visetnoi, Chulalongkorn University School of Agricultural Resources, and Dr. Pongsun Bunditsakulchai from the Transportation Institute of Chulalongkorn University.

This was followed by a panel discussion. The panelists were composed of young professionals from diverse backgrounds in the region, namely, Sawang Srisom, Secretary for Transportation for All (T4A), Chanthalangsy Sisouvanh, Founder and Executive Director, Rural Development Agency, Laos, and Paulista Surjadi, Communication Director, Kota Kita Foundation, Indonesia.

Coordinated and moderated by Dr. Carl Middleton, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, the panel discussion addressed three questions: 1) What sustainability challenges are most



## V. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

important to you and why? 2) What role do you think education institutions should play to support society? How successful have they been to date, and how do they need to change themselves? 3) What emerging sustainability changes do you see for the near future? Who needs to act, how and why? Key points raised in the discussions included the need to recognize the value of inclusive inter-generational dialogues, that education should not leave anyone behind including that “practical access” should be promoted, and a challenge for universities is to teach from-the-heart and to engage teaching staff and students in the priority concerns of society with empathy.

\*Chula YouthQuake Film synopsis

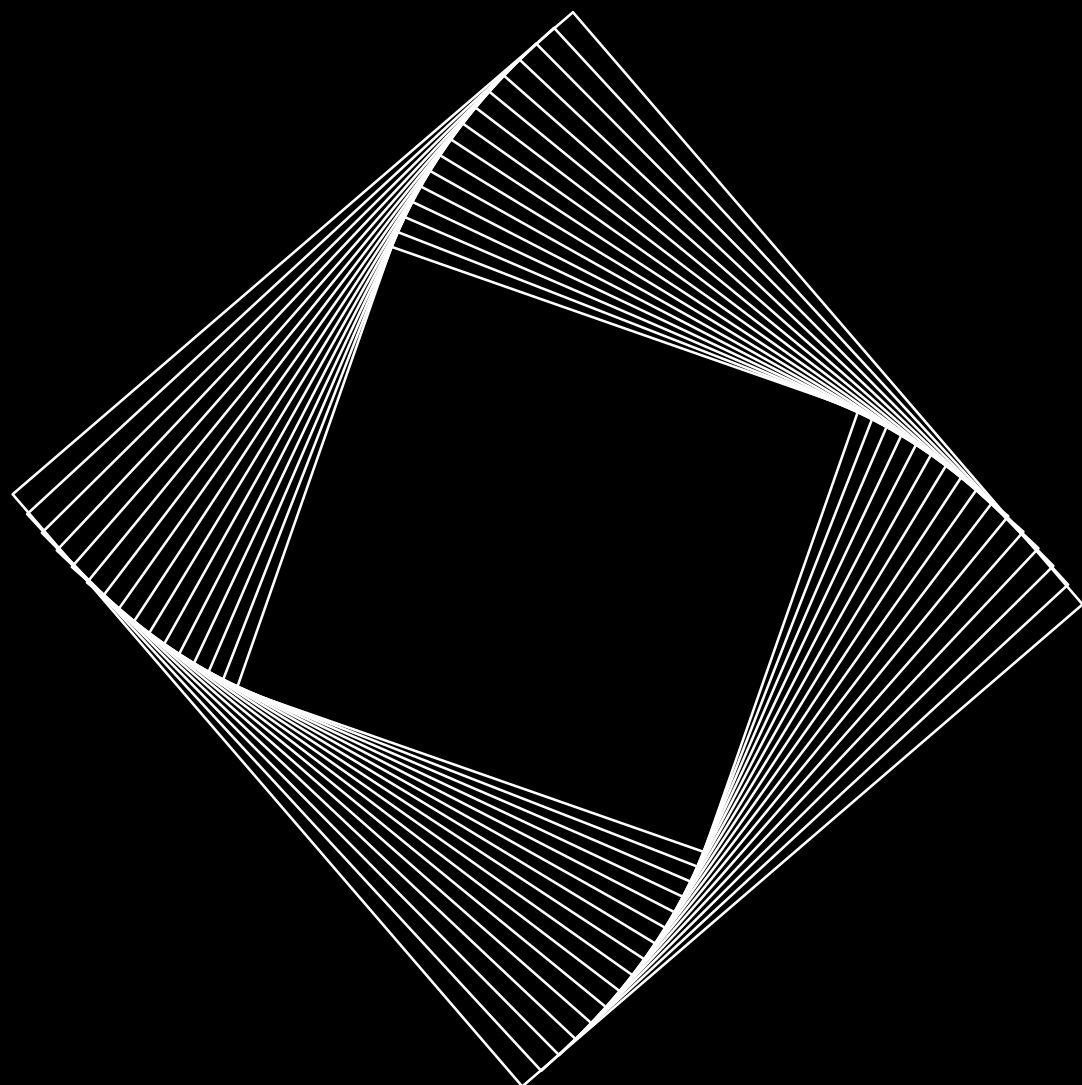
Dr. Pasicha Chaikaew and Dr. Supawan Visetnoi

*“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it”*

-Robert Swan

With an aspiration to be a world class national university academically with environmental responsibility and social transformation of Thai society, Chulalongkorn University has officially announced its intention to apply knowledge learned towards the sustainable development of the country and society as one of its four missions. While the top-down strategy highlights fundamental principles of success, a transitional movement of sustainability concept into the sustainable university culture remains challenging. The YouthQuake project delivered a short film that reflects students and young professionals’ perspectives on the campus sustainability. Campus-wide interviews asked basic questions on sustainability such as perceptions, activities on campus, sustainable courses, lifestyles, and expectations. The messages that this film conveyed should inform the creation of a successful sustainable campus in the future.







## VI. FULL PAPERS

## Inequality and Sustainability: Three Riddles

Professor Dr. Pasuk Phongpaichit

## ABSTRACT

When people think about tackling inequality, they think about high costs—about wasteful populist policies, about high taxes, and so on. This paper suggests changing the mindset and asking instead “what is the cost of not addressing inequality?” The paper also discusses the impact of economic policies and globalization on inequality.

Keywords: *inequality, sustainability, tax, Asia*

The development project in the last 50 years of globalization has transformed many Asian developing countries into Newly Industrializing Countries. Governments have played active roles in raising the overall economic growth rates, resulting in capital accumulation, improving overall standard of living, and less poverty. In Southast Asia, governments have been less successful in combatting inequality. While East Asian countries like Japan and the Republic of Korea have been able to keep the income inequalities down with modern economic management (via tax and transfers and other policies), in many other Asian countries, very little attention is paid to the issue. Many developed countries in the OECD also face problem of high and rising inequality in the last generation or so. Indeed at present, high inequality has become a serious global issue, seen as one reason for the contraction of global demand leading to global instability and trade wars, among other economic woes. These developments are not good for future development nor for inequality reduction projects for any country.<sup>1</sup>

There are many dimensions of inequality—income, wealth, access to political power, access to public goods (like education), cultural and social respect and so on, and these tend to be interconnected. Today I will talk mainly about economic and political aspects. As a student of “political economy”, I do not believe one can separate these two. I must at the outset also clarify the meaning of equality.

In every society there are people with different talents, resulting in inequality in income and wealth among them. But economic inequality is also affected, positively or negatively, by social and political institutions, traditions, culture, social practices and government policies. Thus some countries in the world are more egalitarian than others, such as certain Scandinavian countries, and Japan; while others are less egalitarian, such as the USA, Brazil and Mexico. Digging deeper down, it is found that society’s values also play an important role. In societies where people value equality highly, their governments must build institutions and implement policies that promote equality. Thus, equality does not mean everyone has to be the same in all dimensions, but the differences should be at a level that the society considers “fair”<sup>2</sup> or “just.”<sup>3</sup> This is important for sustaining the social cohesiveness of any society.

<sup>1</sup> See Ghosh, 2018; OECD, 2014; Solt, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> For example, Dr. Mahathir Mohammad of Malaysia says, “an egalitarian and just society must at least be able to reduce the income gap among races and regions; none should remain below the poverty line and everyone should participates in deciding the future directions of their country in the context of a fully matured democracy.” (Mahathir, 2010). In Thailand Dr Kobsak Pootrakul suggested that “Equality means that being a son of a rich or poor family does not affect the opportunity to be successful in life.” “each and every one... is able to receive benefits from the fruits of economic growth equitably, so that the problem of income distribution cannot be passed on from one generation to the next; but reduced as times goes on.” (Kobsak, 2013: 23).

<sup>3</sup> In the view of many academicians, in Thailand since the political movements after the coup in 2006 in Thailand, the issue of “what is just” is not confined only to the issue of equitable access to resources, but also another three principles of upholding the social values of “equality among people”, political participation via democratic means and the principle of justice. See Thira and Thirapong 2014.



Understanding inequality, its cost and how to reduce it have thus become more important than ever if we are to move towards “Future Sustainable Asia.”

By way of discussing how countries should deal with reducing the problems of inequality I would like to answer three riddles about inequality in Asia, using Thailand as an example. Does inequality matter? Will it be costly to reduce inequality? How can it be done?

## 1. Does inequality matter ?

I have been researching on issues of inequality on and off for over 30 years. Over that time, I have regularly met people who say “It’s not important,” “Why waste your time,” “Other things have higher priority, especially growth,” or “Inequality is good for growth, because rich people have the means to invest,” and “inequality is good because it incentivises people to better themselves.”

Until recently, many mainstream economists supported this way of thinking, with various theories. But now the thinking of most economists has changed. It’s not difficult to see why: in recent decades, economic inequality has become dramatically worse in many countries of the world, including some of the richest like the US, and some of the fastest-growing like China.

There has been an avalanche of books and reports on the subject. Every major international organization has produced one, and often several: UN, World Bank, ILO, OECD, etc. Many economists have offered theories on why inequality is getting worse. The most famous (and frightening) is perhaps the French economist, Thomas Piketty. He argued that inequality (on a world scale) will go on and on getting worse. Periods like the present are “normal.” Periods like the 20th century, when inequality seemed to be getting better, are “abnormal,” result of the colossal destruction of world wars.

Other economists attribute rising inequality to the theories and policies that we call “neoliberal,” which favor capital over labor. Others see it as intrinsic to the current stage of globalization, where creating global markets has prompted a “race to the bottom,” and where the propensity to crisis has become almost a normal state of affairs. There are many theories, but that is not my focus today.

Economists have also changed their minds on whether inequality is good or bad for growth. Generally now they think it is bad. When they compare countries across the globe, they find that, other things being equal, the more unequal societies tend to have slower growth. Again there are various explanations, but the most prominent is that unequal societies have more difficulty gaining the social consensus to pursue the right policies, and have more conflict and turmoil that disrupt economic growth (Berg et al, 2012).

I agree with this. I believe that inequalities are a principal factor underlying the political instability and turmoil of recent years in many countries, including in Asia. Thailand can be cited as an example. Of course there are many other factors, particularly to do with personalities. But inequality is fundamental. And not inequality “as a fact”, something in a statistic of a graph, but inequality “as a feeling.” To put it simply, there comes a point where too many of the people have the feeling that the society is not “fair.”

We all know that people have different capabilities, and we accept that results in different levels or reward/income/wealth. Only extreme utopians believe in a society where everyone is equal. But at some point we feel that the gap is too much.

In Thailand, this came through in the red-yellow conflict of a few years ago. Nobody was saying directly that they resented inequality. That is not how such feelings get expressed. But the Red Shirts came



## VI. FULL PAPERS

up with the phrase “double standards” which captured the idea of unfairness perfectly. The opposing group, the Yellow Shirts responded by calling them buffalos, which was a claim that they themselves were superior, and as if to say they deserved to be “more equal than others” in George Orwell’s brilliant phrase.

This rhetoric was so obvious that many people came to accept that inequalities lay behind the turmoil. Several of our leaders came out to say for the first time that inequality was an issue, and ought to be a priority for policy.

But now the turmoil has been suppressed by military rule and has faded into the past; and as the economy is picking up, the issue has faded too. The current economic team has stated that they expect inequality to be solved by growth and trickledown. To be fair to the government, its 20-Year National Strategic Plan aims to promote social equality, but is not clear how. The military government has also implemented two policies, aiming to reduce inequality: an inheritance tax, and a “Welfare Card”, also known as the “Poor Person’s Card” (*bat khon jon* in Thai).

The inheritance tax is a good idea, but the ceiling is so high and the rates so low that it “will not resolve any injustice in the society, but it may have have some psychological values and the government may earn a very little more income”<sup>4</sup> In other words it’s a good start and helps ward off the criticisms of government doing nothing at all.

Under the “Welfare Card” scheme, people who register themselves as “poor” receive a voucher or card to buy goods and services valued from 300-600 baht per month. This is similar to the food stamp system in the US. But the administration of the scheme is rather clumsy, and vulnerable to misuse and corruption.<sup>5</sup> It has been implemented in haste with no process of evaluation. More importantly, the framing of this scheme is not based on “rights” of citizens, but on a model of charity: people have to demean themselves as a “poor person” in order to benefit.

Meanwhile, at the same time, many of the government’s other policies are likely to increase inequality.<sup>6</sup> These policies include reductions in tax rates, privileges for business firms, and restrictions on small entrepreneurs like vendors and van-drivers.

But the cloud of the worldwide concern over inequality has a silver lining: there has been a lot of new research which has increased our understanding of the issue. One important finding comes from research in the OECD, the rich countries, but is relevant elsewhere. The OECD (2014) study found that Inequality is increasingly being passed on from generation to generation. And the negative impact on future growth may continue for another generation. If people grow up in a poor family, they themselves are more likely to be poor or even poorer.

This is a very important finding. In the recent past in Europe, US, and Japan, most people grew up to be better off than their parents. That expectation has been built into the psyche. But for many people, that expectation is no longer fulfilled. And that has led to social malaise and in some cases, political unrest.

Similarly in Thailand, inequality as seen in the Gini coefficient of household income increased

<sup>4</sup> Krirkiat, 2015

<sup>5</sup> Although it is a good start a critic noted out that as people prefer cash to card, they may sold their cards to designated stores to get money, and the stores would probable ask for a discount (Somchai, 2017). Another pointed out that if the government pay cash directly into the poor bank accounts, this may reduce the cost of implementation to the point of being able to more than double the amount of the cash transfer (Vidhayakon, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> Kongkirati and Kanchoochat, 2018.



markedly between 1960 and 1992, declined slightly after the Asian financial crisis of 1997,<sup>7</sup> but began increasing again in 2015. We shall have to see if this is the beginning of a trend. I suspect it will be as in the past decade or so, we have seen no significant policy initiatives to counter the inequality trend.

Meanwhile, as a society, I think we are becoming more aware of unfairness of all kinds, and readier to speak out against it. Social media has made a big difference. Before, an individual might have felt some anger over the blatant ways that the sons and daughters of the rich and powerful could get away with murder with impunity, but that was that; today that person knows within minutes that a lot of other people feel the same. Both travel and internet have made a big difference in another way. More people can compare our society with others and see the differences. We easily forget that there was a time before the smartphone, that the mass of people have only had this access for a handful of years; we are yet to see the full impact.

## 2. Will it be costly to reduce inequality?

When people think about tackling inequality, they immediately think about high costs – about wasteful populist policies, about high taxes to fund social policies and income transfers, and so on. So what would it cost to tackle inequality?

I want to change the question: from “what will it cost to address inequality?” to “what is the cost of not addressing inequality?”

The research now being done on issues of inequality all over the world gives us a much greater understanding of these costs than we had a few years ago. I’ll just mention 3 areas.

First, the costs of slower growth. Since our political conflict intensified in the early 2000s, we have grown more slowly than our neighbors, perhaps by one to two percent a year. To put it crudely, had that not been the case, our GDP now might be higher by around 15%, or to put it another way, we all might be 15% better off. Economists have found that in countries with higher inequality, “growth bursts” tend to be shorter, that is when the cycle turns to a phase of higher growth, it tends not to be sustained, perhaps because of conflict, perhaps because of failures to achieve consensus on policy.

Second, health costs. Two British epidemiologists (health experts) have shown that less equal societies do worse on many measures – physical health, mental health, drug abuse, and violence. These impose two kinds of cost, the direct costs of caring for the resulting health problems, and the loss in productivity of the people affected.

Third, there is the general loss of productivity of people who do not acquire the skills and the assets to make the most of their potential.

Recently on arrival in UK, I took a taxi to where I was staying. The taxi-driver asked where I came from and then said he had a Thai wife. When they met in Khorat, she had a low-pay job and was struggling to bring up a daughter after her husband abandoned her. She married the British taxi-driver, moved to UK, mastered English quickly, gained the qualifications to get a job in the health service, and is now about to

---

<sup>7</sup> In the official figures, this decline is quite significant, but Thanasak Jenmana argues that this reading is distorted by the progressive failure of the Socioeconomic Survey to capture accurate data on high-income families, and that the real decline was small. See “Income inequality, political instability, and the Thai democratic struggle,” MA thesis, Paris School of Economics, 2018.



## VI. FULL PAPERS

get UK nationality. The driver was obviously very proud of her. Her progress after moving to UK shows that she is obviously talented, but never had the right chances. Through luck, she has now become a more productive and contributing member of society. She was unable to achieve that here because of the massive inequality of opportunity.

The losses that a society incurs from the massive inequality of opportunity are incalculable. Indeed, the costs of inequality in general are very difficult to estimate. My point is that we should not think of policies to address inequality as costs but more as investments to derive gains from the unrealized potential of so many people.

### 3. Can we reduce inequality?

Let me say here that there is no quick fix on inequality. Policies will take time to have an effect. But you still need to start if you are ever going to get anywhere. Let me also say briefly that I think there are two main areas where government can take action that will address the problem. The first and most important is education. Equipping more people with more of the skills to improve their own income and their own quality of life is the most important single policy in the long run. That has two aspects: improving the quality of education across the board, and reducing the massive inequalities in access to good education. The PISA scores show that the top tier of our education system is on a par with the rich, advanced countries of the world, and the bottom tier on par with some of the poorest and most backward. I was born in a village where the prospects for education were not good, and it took a whole series of good fortune to get me to one of the best universities in the world. It could easily have been very different.

The second area of policy is social welfare, where I think the priorities are strengthening the universal healthcare system, providing for the aged as our society ages, improving childcare and mother support, and providing subsidies or minimum income schemes for low income families.

Most societies accept that public expenditures on education is a necessary investment. But social welfare is more controversial. Governments (and many economists) tend to see such schemes purely as a cost, because they do not factor in the benefits such as gains in productivity. But there are economists who think differently, and have pointed out that countries with high productivity, such as Germany, France and the UK all have a large welfare state. In the 20th century they even grew faster than at present because their governments invested heavily in education and health, enabling their labour force to be healthy and skilled, contributing to the rising productivity. More importantly, good social welfare enabled people to have security in life which means they can face risk and are prepared to invest for future economic growth.<sup>8</sup>

The policies for countering inequality are pretty obvious. The blockage does not lie in knowledge but in political will. Do the powerful segments of the society want to address this issue? To put it more directly, are they prepared to pay for it, from higher taxation?

This is a crucial issue. Public goods such as education and welfare are scarce in volume and poor in quality because government revenues are low.<sup>9</sup> As illustration, in Thailand all taxes are just 18 percent of GDP compared to Turkey at 30 % and the average for the OECD as a whole is 34 %. The low ratio in

<sup>8</sup> See for example, Garfinkel and Smeeding, 2015.

<sup>9</sup> Not to mention other problems like corruption and bad management.



Thailand has been at this level for over a long period of time, despite the rising GDP over the years.

Our research team at Chulalongkorn University in collaboration with those from Thammasat University and the Ministry of Finance has just completed a study on the personal income tax reform (Pasuk et al 2017). This study not only shed lights on how Thailand could design a tax system to reduce inequality, it also offers ways for the government to increase tax revenue.

The study is focused on the personal income tax. It is found that the revenue Department has been very successful to collect taxes from employment income via the use of tax deduction at source from salary and wage earners in formal sector, with cooperation from employers all over the country. But it finds it very difficult to collect taxes from those with high unearned income, even though they are very rich and have high capacity to pay. One of the major reasons for this is political interference. Those who receive high unearned income get away with paying little tax, mainly because of exemptions, loopholes, and poor administration. Other ASEAN countries have rather similar strengths and weaknesses in their tax systems.

The World Bank reckons the Thai government could increase tax revenue by another 5% of GDP by plugging the loopholes and reforming the administration.

At present, education and social welfare costs about 10 percent of Thailand's GDP. The leading Think Tank, TDRI has estimated that it would require only another 2.5% of GDP to provide a reasonable welfare scheme covering from birth to death.<sup>10</sup> The additional cost is only half of the extra revenue from the tax reforms suggested by the World Bank. Another 1% could be raised if government became more serious about taxing the accumulation of wealth, which is concentrated in the very upper levels of society, through such measures as property and capital gains tax.

In sum, the question is not that the country does not have a means to get more revenue for the social welfare programme. But it is the question of political will.

Reducing inequality needs time. But if we do not start now, we will not reach the goal. If we look at countries with lower inequality such as, Japan or some Northern European countries, we find that the people give high value to equality and social justice. So they are willing to pay for it in order to keep such a society for the future because it is free of serious conflicts and it is, quite simply, a good place to live one's life.

Two last points before I conclude.

First, countries with a democratic framework of politics have a better chance of generating the political will to combat inequality, and reaping the gains in economic growth and social harmony.

Secondly, I have been concentrating on internal matters, but we live in globalized world, marked by complex trade networks, capital and migration flows and global value chains. Our internal economies are vulnerable to crises and conflicts in the global economy. We need "changes in the architecture that governs international trade and finance to reduce the power of large private capital" (Jayati Ghosh, 2018:206 ), and we need more cooperation, particularly with our close neighbors.

---

<sup>10</sup> This will include some subsidies for mothers from pregnancy until the child is 6 years old, free education for 15 years, and pension of about 1,000 baht per month, as well as providing skill training programme and universal health care scheme assistance for the disabled. In other words, a more comprehensive social welfare programme will need another 2.5% of GDP more than at present. See Somchai, 2011.



## VI. FULL PAPERS

### Conclusion

Let me answer the three riddles as follows.

First question: Is inequality a problem for Asia?

Answer: Yes, if there are people who think that there is little fairness in their society

Second question: Will it be costly to reduce inequality?

Answer: This is the wrong question. We have to set the question as: What is the cost of a society with high inequality?

Third question: Can we reduce inequality?

Answer: Yes, and it is not as difficult as we think.

Thank you



## Reference

- Berg, A., Ostry, J. D., and Zettelmeyer, J. 2012. What Makes Growth Sustained? *Journal of Development Economics*, 98(2): 149–66.
- Garfinkel, Irwin and Timothy Smeeding. 2015. “Welfare State Myth and Measurement”. In *Capitalism and Society*, Vol. 10, Issue 1.
- Ghosh, Jayati. 2018. “Global instability and the development project: is the twenty-first century different?”, *European Journal of Economy and Economics Policies: Intervention*, Vol. 15, No. 12.
- Kobsak Phutrakul. 2013. “The Quality of Growth from the Perspective of Income Distribution: Problems and Solutions”, In Thai. Presented at the Annual Seminar of the Bank of Thailand, Bangkok, 19 September.
- Krikkiat Pipatseritham. 2015. “Economic Inequality and the Inheritance Tax in Thailand”, In Thai. Presented at the Royal Society of Thailand, 16, September.
- Mahathir M, 2015. Malaysia: “The Way Forward (Vision 2010).” Speech delivered at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Malaysia, 1 June.
- OECD. 2014. *Directorate for Employment, Labor and Social Affairs, Focus on Inequality and Growth*, December.
- Pasuk Pongpaichit, Nualnoi Trirat, Duangmanee Laovakul, Chayanee Chawanote, Maneekwan Chandarasorn, Pan, Ananapibut, Cripps, Francis. 2017, December. *Reform guidelines for personal income taxation and the analysis of income distribution amongst tax payers*. Research project supported by Thailand Research Fund (TRF). The study receives an award of distinguished research for 2016 from TRF.
- Somchai Jitsuchon et al., 2011. *Towards a Comprehensive Social Welfare System by 2017*. In Thai. Bangkok: TDRI.
- Somchai Jitsuchon .2017. “Loopholes of the Welfare Card”. <https://tdri.or.th/2017/10/interview-dr-somchai-state-welfare-card-project>
- Solt, Frederic.2016. The Standardized World Income Inequality Database, *Social Science Quarterly* 97. SWIID Version 7.1, August 2018 Download BibTeX Citation.
- Thailand’s Business News. 2018. “Thailand’s Welfare Card Shortcomings: The Poor were Not Registered and the Registered Not Poor”, June 7. <Thailand-business-news.com>
- Thira Sindecharak and Thirapong Wongna. 2014. “Seminar Social Justice in Thai Society”, <socanth.tu.ac.th> Accessed 18, April, 2017.
- Vithayakon, Chiangkun. 2018. “Tax reform and the Thai welfare state”, *Krungthep Thurakit*, 24 September, 2018.



## VI. FULL PAPERS

## Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Border Communities in South Eastern Myanmar

Dr. Cynthia Maung, Ms. Lisa Houston and Ms. Narumoon Maungjamrad

Mae Tao Clinic

### ABSTRACT

While the general elections of 2015 brought hope for a new era of Democracy to the people of Myanmar, also known as Burma, in the ethnic areas of Myanmar, ethnic minorities and the migrant communities on the Thailand-Myanmar border still face obstacles to realize their freedom and human rights, such as the equitable access to health care, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. One of the priorities for our network with other communities-based organizations, ethnic health organizations, NGOs and government bodies is to improve the capability for women, men, girls and boys to fully realize their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). SRHR in the lifecycle approach encompasses access to safe delivery, adolescence reproductive health, developing identity, access to family planning, and post-abortion care. A more sustainable commitment from different bodies of our network is needed to tackle the ongoing challenges regarding the prevalence of unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, maternal and child death due to inaccessibility to sexual and reproductive health and rights and the cross-sector collaborations to strength the health workforce and system which are deterred by political agenda.

*Keywords: Health as Human Rights, Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights, Capacity Building, Community Empowerment, Health System Strengthening*

“Sexual and reproductive health and rights cut across the three central dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. Therefore, ensuring universal access to such rights should be an essential part of the response to the global challenges we face”(IPPF 2014, p.6).<sup>1</sup> When women and girls are given the right to be in control of their sexual and reproductive health, they gain the capability to contribute to the economic, social and environmental sustainability.

### 1. Health Background – Eastern Myanmar

While the general elections of 2015 brought hope for a new era of Democracy to the people of Myanmar, human rights violations such as land confiscation, forced displacement and labor exploitation are still prevalent and in Kachin, Shan, Karen and Rakhine State conflict continues. The government's excessive expenditure on military and underfunding of health, education and social welfare systems in Myanmar leave the country with under-functioning health facilities and a shortage of health professionals, especially in the rural areas. As a result, the Myanmar health professional's ratio is 1.33 for each 1000 population while the WHO minimum recommended threshold is 2.3 (Health Information System Working Group,



2015).<sup>2</sup> Myanmar health professionals tend to be disproportionately represented in the urban areas, with the shortage of health workers most extreme in rural conflict-affected areas. The decades long conflict and the Myanmar military's oppressive rule and offensive attacks have left the conflict-affected areas with limited structures for health, infrastructure and other social systems. The result of limited accessibility to health in Eastern Burma is a high level of maternal and under-five mortality rates.

Table (1)

Key Indicators of maternal and child health and access to reproductive health services in Eastern Myanmar, Myanmar and Thailand <sup>3, 4, 5</sup>

	Eastern Myanmar (2013)	Myanmar	Thailand
Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births	n/a	178 (2015)	20 (2018)
Under 5 Mortality Per 1000 live births	141.9	50 (2015)	10.4 (2015)
Infant Mortality Rate Per 1000 live births	94.2	41.1(2015)	9 (2015)
Unmet need for family planning	54.1	16 (2018)	6 (2018)
Contraceptive prevalence	26.7	53 (2018)	79 (2018)



VI. FULL PAPERS

2. Border Health - Thailand

Conflicts and economic insecurity caused by unregulated economic development and natural disasters have also brought thousands of people from Myanmar to Thailand and the border area. 10% of Myanmar’s population is living abroad as migrant workers, with 70% based in Thailand (Mekong Migration Network, 2017). <sup>6</sup> As of May 2016, out of approximately 2 million documented migrant workers in Thailand, 80% (1.43 millions) are from Myanmar (IOM)<sup>7</sup>. Further, undocumented migrants and dependents of migrant workers are not counted, thus the actual number of migrants from Myanmar residing in Thailand could be much higher than the official figure. The majority of migrants remained unregistered and many live in rural areas spread out over large areas making health care difficult to access due to travel, cost, language barriers and fear of being arrest. The inaccessiblites to health services is more prevalence among the migrant population working and living in remote agricultural lands.

Women and children of this population are more likely to be undocumented placing them in a position of great vulnerability for exploitation and facing obstacles to access essential health services and protection. Women migrant workers are also routinely paid less than men, heightening this vulnerability. In recent years, improvement in migrant population’s accessibilities to health can be seen thank to the CBOs, NGOs and Thai government and their cross-sector collaborations.

3. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – Developing a community approach for sustainability

Table (2)

Sexual and Reproductive Right Definition by Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Center for Women (Arrow) - Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia: a regional profile (2016), p.7 <sup>8</sup>

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH implies that people are able to have a responsible, satisfying, and safe sex life, and that they have the capacity to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when, and how often to do so. Implicit in this are the right of men and women to be informed of and have access to safe, effective, affordable, and acceptable methods of fertility regulation of their choice, and to appropriate healthcare services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of a healthy infant (WHO).

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents, and other consensus documents. These rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing, and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes their right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, as expressed in human rights documents (ICPD).



**SEXUAL HEALTH** Sexual health implies a positive approach to human sexuality and the purpose of sexual healthcare is the enhancement of life and personal relations as well as counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases (adapted, UN).

**SEXUAL RIGHTS** Sexual rights embrace human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents, and other consensus documents. These include the right of all persons, free of coercion, discrimination, and violence, to the highest attainable standard of health in relation to sexuality, including access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services; seek, receive, and impart information in relation to sexuality; sexuality education; respect for bodily integrity; choice of partner; decision to be sexually active or not; consensual sexual relations; consensual marriage; decide whether or not, and when, to have children; and pursue a satisfying, safe, and pleasurable sexual life (WHO working definition).

Improving the capability for women to fully realize their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights is one of our priorities and we work with a network of community organizations dedicated to this cause. We believe a whole Lifecycle Approach is essential in creating sustainable solutions to increasing SRHR for all people. SRHR must encompass access to quality antenatal care and safe delivery, access to adolescent reproductive health and education, address issues of identity and provide access to safe and good quality family planning, and post-abortion care. “Sexual and reproductive health and rights cut across the three central dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. Therefore, ensuring universal access to such rights should be an essential part of the response to the global challenges we face” (IPPF 2014, p.6).<sup>9</sup> When women and girls are given the right to be in control of their sexual and reproductive health, they gain the capability to contribute to the economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Among the thousands of Myanmar’s migrants, who are working on the Thai-Myanmar border area, are youth and many of them are girls and women who are working in informal employment such as working at farms, construction sites, restaurant and as domestic workers, which require long working hours and allow very limited number of day offs and do not cover their health insurance and social security. Due to these circumstances, women from migrant communities face tremendous struggle to access to sexual and reproductive health and rights services.

SRHR needs comprehensive approaches that encompass community level, institutional level as well as policy level for all women to fully enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights. While comprehensive SRHR services are more readily available to married couples and adults, all adolescents and people of reproductive ages should be able to access those services. The following gives an explanation to the different pillars of SRHR that our work focuses on in Eastern Myanmar and the border area.



## VI. FULL PAPERS

### 3.1. Accessibility to Quality Antenatal Care and Safe Delivery

Access to quality antenatal care and safe delivery is crucial for women as it determines the quality of life for the babies as well as women after childbirth. 40% of women in Eastern Myanmar didn't receive antenatal care services and 73% delivered their child with a traditional birth attendant (HISWG, 2015).<sup>10</sup> Women in conflict-affected areas of Eastern Myanmar have less chance to access safe delivery including emergency obstetric care and referral for advanced level care in case of complication, if compared to other parts of the country, especially in comparison to cities. While care is available in conflict-free areas, at more well-established advanced level care government facilities, obstacles such as difficult transportation, language barrier and discrimination (especially for ethnic women) deters women from accessing that care. In addition, there are still many costs involved in accessing care at government facilities which is unaffordable for many.

To improve women's access to quality antenatal care and safe delivery, community-based organization such as the Mae Tao Clinic, the Back Pack Health Worker Team and Burma Medical Association have collaborated with indigenous ethnic health organizations in their respective areas. Their collaborations include the training of traditional birth attendants as well as upgrading the skills of community health workers in maternal and children health, and emergency obstetric care. The network works together in service-mapping and the strengthening the health systems in the respective ethnic areas.

### 3.2. Access to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Education

A child's accessibility to adolescent reproductive health and education determines his/her realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights. As matters related to sex including reproductive organs and sexual relationships are still a taboo throughout Myanmar, adolescent sexual and reproductive education gets very little attention as a subject matter at school or as an informal knowledge transfer at home. Adolescents and youths, who have never been informed about basic reproductive health and sexuality, have a higher vulnerability to sexual assault and exploitation, unintended teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and infections. According to Myanmar Ministry of Health report (2013), the rate of women having the knowledge of contraceptive methods and sources of available supplies are the lowest among women aged between 15-19.<sup>11</sup> At the same time, the adolescent of the same age group is also the lowest proposition of birth attended by skills personals. In the context of Ma La Refugee camp and migrant communities in Mae Sot, the stress over safety and security of adolescences could impact their vulnerability to risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (Lee, 2017).<sup>12</sup>

As an organization aiming to provide a holistic approach to health, Mae Tao Clinic collaborates with a network of CBOs, NGOs, and EHOs in developing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Education training curriculum and organizes trainings to improve adolescence sexual and reproductive health education with adolescents and youths in migrant learning centers and those working in the South Eastern Thai-Myanmar border area. During the trainings, adolescents and youths not only learn about sexual and reproductive health but are also informed on available Sexual and Reproductive Health services, including family planning options and service delivery points.



### 3.3. Developing Identity and Sexual and Gender based Violence

A country's status on gender equality determines the development of the gender identity of its citizens. Adolescence is a crucial time when young people develop a greater awareness on their own gender identity and role responding to their social environments such as attitudes and gender norms, which can have a profound impact on their wellbeing (UNFPA, UNESCO & WHO, 2015).<sup>13</sup> In the context of Myanmar, traditionally, men dominate society both at the national level and at the family level, and are true for most of the ethnic areas as well. The role of men is given a superior status in the hierarchies of society and the workplace as well as in the perception ingrained in social and religious constructs. Women are usually seen as a weaker or inferior sex, incapable of making decisions and being independent thus deserving less recognition for their dignity, opinion, and their equally hard-earned achievements. The normalization of gender inequality is embedded in a male leadership, dominated by the military, who are portrayed to symbolize strength and embodied in heroic imagery supposed to represent the country. This is compounded by degrading media portrayals of women as weak or conniving. Gender is an institutional obstacle to women and girls developing a healthy identity and fully realizing their rights and dignity.

It's imperative to strengthen the development of a healthy gender identity among women and to help them realize their rights. Protecting and upholding the values of human rights and gender equality is the first step in promoting sexual and reproductive rights. Within our networks, we empower women and girls through gender equality education, informing them about services which can provide including medical, legal and social services in cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

### 3.4. Access to Family Planning

In Eastern Burma, there is a 54% (HISWG, 2015)<sup>14</sup> unmet need in terms of family planning, compared to the national figure of 16% (UNFPA, 2018)<sup>15</sup>. Barriers for women in accessing family planning include:

- gender inequality, in which men insist on making decisions about family planning choices, overpowering the needs of women,
- misconceptions about family planning derived from traditional and culture beliefs
- geographical difficulties reaching family planning services
- legislation that prevents non-government trained health workers to provide long-acting family planning methods
- limited access to different family planning options, including long-acting family planning methods due to inadequate qualified health workers for the procedure and a shortage of resources.

As cited in the (HISWG, 2015, p.29) report "It's [family planning] considered essential to help reduce maternal mortality as well as improving the health of both mothers and babies".<sup>16</sup> By raising community awareness on family planning and giving them options for different family planning services including short-term and long-acting reversible and permanent family planning methods in communities with low accessibility to family planning including underserved communities in contested areas, we have been able to improve contraceptive prevalence rate in Eastern Myanmar. The relationship between service providers and clients as well as the service providers' counseling skill which includes giving well-rounded information of different family planning methods to help clients to make their own decisions could determine the clients' continued acceptance and practice of family planning method.



## VI. FULL PAPERS

### 3.5. Access to Safe Abortion and Post Abortion care

Abortion is the third leading cause of maternal mortality in Eastern Myanmar. Abortion is illegal throughout the country thus there is no legislation in place to ensure the accessibility to safe abortion for any case. This leads women to seek help for abortions with untrained service providers, which put women in dangerous situation and could result in abortion-related mortality and morbidity. Myanmar hospital statistics showed that 51.85% of abortion related complication resulted in death in 2011 (Myanmar Ministry of Health, 2013).<sup>17</sup>

Access to post abortion services is also hindered by social constructs, which stigmatize abortion. Thus women tend to address health problems related to post abortion complications on their own without or delay in seeking medical help. Additionally, comprehensive post abortion care services, which include clinical, counseling and family planning as well as referral to tertiary care for serious complication is not available for women in Eastern Myanmar. At Mae Tao Clinic Inpatient Reproductive Health Department, there were 315 cases for Post Abortion care in 2017, which accounts for 14% of pregnancy related admission and at SMRU clinics, total admission for post-abortion care accounts for 10% of the total pregnancy related admission.<sup>18</sup>

Our network of CBOs, NGOs and EHOs have been able to find ways to improve women's access to post abortion care by integration post abortion care into our Emergency Obstetric care trainings for maternal and child health workers who are providing services in their respected ethnic areas, where in some places, they are the sole care providers in their communities. As for safe abortion care, we have established safe abortion referral system with Thai government hospitals, which help women in specified criteria to access safe abortion care at Thai government hospitals.

### 4. Our steps toward SRHR

To improve access to essential health services including reproductive health and to move toward a more sustainable system of service delivery, community-based organizations and ethnic health organizations along the border and Eastern Myanmar have been collaborating with NGOs, INGOs and government bodies to build community capacity in providing health services in their own area and to strengthen health systems such as the establishment of health information system, management policies which include human resource development for health and upgrading clinical skills of healthcare providers. The result has been improvements in access to antenatal care, safe delivery and birth registration, family planning, post abortion care, and referral pathways to safe abortion, obstetrics emergencies and SGBV cases. The ongoing challenges include lack of recognition for community health workers, prevalence of unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion due to inaccessibility to sexual and reproductive health and rights, limited resources to provide adolescents and youth friendly comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, children born without citizenship depriving them of citizen rights in accessing essential services and cross-sector collaborations that are deterred by political agenda.

### 5. Recommendation

In recent years, Thailand has put its efforts to include sexual and reproductive health in its policies. Myanmar government has recently draft a SRHR policy, however the strategies toward reaching the migrant and refugee communities in accessing SRHR have not been included. While Thailand and Myanmar



have been steering toward integrative sexual and reproductive health policy for their people, the effective implementation of the policy couldn't be completed without its inclusiveness for people of different backgrounds and age-groups including women from migrant, ethnics and rural communities as well as adolescents at different stages. Further, governments stress their commitment toward the comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and right at policy and national level, at the same time, strategizing in a way to utilize the existing health structure and human resources at the community level is equally important in achieving the optimal outcomes for inclusive coverage of the population. While the global and academic communities demonstrate great dedication for creating socially sustainable world for our future generations, it should be inclusive of all generations, including those who are invisible and whose voice unheard by the people in power. Access to health services for the highest standard of physical and mental wellbeing shouldn't be a privilege, it should be a birthright.

## Endnotes and References

- <sup>1</sup> The International Planned Parenthood. 2014. *Sexual and reproductive health and rights – a crucial agenda for the post-2015 framework* [https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/report\\_for\\_web.pdf](https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/report_for_web.pdf)
- <sup>2</sup> Health Information System Working Group (HISWG). 2015. Long road to recovery – Ethnic and community based health organisations lead the way to better health in Eastern Burma. [www.hiswg.org](http://www.hiswg.org)
- <sup>3</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>4</sup> World Health Observatory. *Data Repository*. <http://apps.who.int/gho/dat>
- <sup>5</sup> United Nation Population Fund. *World Population Dashboard*. <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population-dashboard>
- <sup>6</sup> Mekong Migration Report. 2017. *Annual Report*. <http://www.mekongmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Annual-Report-2017.pdf>
- <sup>7</sup> IOM – International Organization for Migration. *Thailand Migration Profile*. <https://thailand.iom.int/sites/default/files/Infosheets/IOM%20Infosheet%20-%20Labour%20Migration%20Trends%20in%20Thailand.pdf>
- <sup>8</sup> Asia-Pacific Resources and Research Center for Women (ARROW). 2016. *Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia: a regional profile*. [https://arrow.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Regional-Profile-Universal-Access-to-SRHR\\_Asia.pdf](https://arrow.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Regional-Profile-Universal-Access-to-SRHR_Asia.pdf)
- <sup>9</sup> The International Planned Parenthood. 2014. *Sexual and reproductive health and rights – a crucial agenda for the post-2015 framework* [https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/report\\_for\\_web.pdf](https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/report_for_web.pdf)
- <sup>10</sup> HISWG. 2015. *Long road to recovery*.
- <sup>11</sup> Myanmar Ministry of Health. 2013. *Five Years Strategic Plan for Reproductive Health (2014-2018)*. [http://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Core\\_Doc\\_Five-Year\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_for\\_Reproductive\\_Health\\_2014-2018.pdf](http://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Core_Doc_Five-Year_Strategic_Plan_for_Reproductive_Health_2014-2018.pdf)
- <sup>12</sup> Lee, Catherine et al. 2017. *Sexual and reproductive health needs and risks of very young adolescent refugees and migrants from Myanmar living in Thailand*. *Conflict and Health*, 2017, 11. <https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s13031-017-0130-0>
- <sup>13</sup> UNFPA, UNESCO & WHO. 2015. *Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young People in Asia and The Pacific: A review of issues, policies and programmes*. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002435/243566E.pdf>
- <sup>14</sup> HISWG. 2015. *Long road to recovery*.
- <sup>15</sup> United Nation Population Fund. *World Population Dashboard*. <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population-dashboard>
- <sup>16</sup> HISWG. 2015. *Long road to recovery*
- <sup>17</sup> Myanmar Ministry of Health. 2013. *Five Years Strategic Plan for Reproductive Health (2014-2018)*.
- <sup>18</sup> Shoklo Malaria Unit. 2017. *Annual Report* [http://www.shoklo-unit.com/sites/default/files/reports/annual-report/smr\\_u\\_annual\\_report\\_2017.pdf](http://www.shoklo-unit.com/sites/default/files/reports/annual-report/smr_u_annual_report_2017.pdf)



## VII. BANGKOK FORUM PROGRAM

Bangkok Forum 2018  
“Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability”

**DAY 1: Wednesday, 24 October 2018**

Time	Activity
09:00-11:00	<p><b>Opening Ceremony</b> Opening by the Master of Ceremonies: Assistant Professor Dr. Carina Chotirawe, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University</p> <p>• <b>Report and Welcome</b> Professor Dr. Bundhit Eua-arporn, President, Chulalongkorn University</p> <p>• <b>Welcome Address</b> Mr. Park In-kook, President, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies</p> <p><b>Opening Address:</b> Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand</p> <p><b>Special Speech:</b> Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand</p> <p><b>Keynote Speech I:</b> Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Former Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO); Former Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) “Future Governance for Sustainable Asia”</p> <p><b>Keynote Speech II:</b> Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board Member on Mediation; Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations “Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable ASEAN”</p> <p><b>Keynote Speech III:</b> Dr. Hongjoo Hahm, Officer-in-Charge, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) “The Challenges of SDGs in the Asia Pacific Region”</p>
	Lunch Break



Bangkok Forum 2018  
“Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability”

**DAY 1: Wednesday, 24 October 2018**

Time	Activity
13:00-14:30	<p><b>Plenary Session I:</b> <b>Tackling Inequality with Enabling Knowledge in Asian Development</b> Chair: Dr. Susan Vize, Regional Adviser, Social &amp; Human Sciences, UNESCO, Bangkok</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professor Dr. Pasuk Phongpaichit, Professor Emeritus of Political Economy, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand “Inequality and Sustainability: Three Riddles”</li> <li>2. Professor SeeJae Lee, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, The Catholic University of Process Korea, Republic of Korea “Challenge to Professionalism: Citizen Deliberation in the Decision-making around Nuclear Power Policy in Korea”</li> <li>3. Mr. Sakchai Patiparnprechavud, Vice President-Polyolefins and Vinyl Business, Chemicals Business, SCG Chemicals Co., Ltd., Thailand “Circular Economy: The Future We Create”</li> </ol> <p>Discussant: Dr. Andreea R. Torre, Research Fellow in Gender, Environment and Development, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Asia</p>
14:30-14:45	Coffee Break
14:45-16:30	<p><b>Plenary Session II:</b> <b>Challenges of Social Justice in Asia</b> Chair: Dr. Tidarat Sinlapapiromsuk, Vice Dean for International Affairs, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professor Dr. Jaeyeol Yee, Department of Sociology, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea “The Importance of Social Value in the Age of Sustainability: The Experience of Korea”</li> <li>2. Dr. Suntariya Muangpawong, Deputy Secretary General, Supreme Court of Thailand; Research Judge, Court of Appeals of Thailand “People-Oriented Justice Reform”</li> <li>3. Dr. Cynthia Maung, Founder and Director, Mae Tao Clinic, Thailand-Burma border “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Border Communities”</li> <li>4. Professor Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Professor of International Relations &amp; Director, Centre for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh “Confronting the Archetypes of Singularity, Fear and Intolerance”</li> </ol> <p>Discussant: Ms. Emerlynne Gil, Senior International Legal Adviser, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)</p>



## VII. BANGKOK FORUM PROGRAM

### Bangkok Forum 2018 “Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability”

#### DAY 1: Wednesday, 24 October 2018

Time	Activity
16:30-17:30	<p><b>YouthQuake Panel</b></p> <p>Moderator: Assistant Professor Dr. Carl Middleton, Director, Center for Social Development Studies, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chula YouthQuake: Introduction and Screening Dr. Pasicha Chaikaew, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University Dr. Supawan Visetnoi, Chulalongkorn University School of Agricultural Resources</li> <li>• Panel discussion Ms. Paulista Surjadi, Communication Director, Kota Kita Foundation, Indonesia Mr. Sawang Srisom, Secretary for Transportation for All (T4A) Ms. Chanthalangsy Sisouvanh, Founder and Executive Director, Rural Development Agency, Lao PDR</li> </ul>
18:00 - 20:00	<b>Welcome Dinner Reception</b>



Bangkok Forum 2018  
“Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability”

**DAY 2: Thursday, 25 October 2018**

Time	Activity
09:00-09:20	<p><b>Keynote Speech IV:</b> Professor Dr. Nay Htun, Founder and Hon. Patron, Green Economy Green Growth, GEGG (not for profit) Association, Myanmar “Transformation Green Paradigm: An Imperative”</p>
09:20-10:50	<p><b>Plenary Session III:</b> <b>University and Public Engagement: Transgressive Learning and Action</b> Chair: Dr. Bharat Dahiya, Senior Advisor, Environment, Development and Sustainability Program, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Mariko Komatsu, Project Coordinator, Fukushima Booklet Publication Committee; Ph.D. candidate, Phoenix Leadership Education Program, Hiroshima University, Japan “The Zones of Proximal Development for Universities and Civil Society: Lesson Learnt from Fukushima Radiation Disaster”</li> <li>2. Mr. Khamphoui Saythalat, Executive Director, Participatory Development Training Centre, Lao PDR “Empowering Generations of Young Leaders through Theory, Practice and Participation”</li> <li>3. Dr. Toshiyuki Doi, Senior Advisor, Mekong Watch, Japan “Language Revitalization as a Case of University-Community Knowledge Co-creation”</li> <li>4. Mr. Ahmad Rifai, Co-Founder/Executive Director, Kota Kita Foundation, Indonesia “City as a Classroom: Urban Citizenship, Social Space, and Pedagogic Experiences from Indonesian Cities”</li> </ol> <p>Discussant: Associate Professor Dr. Avorn Opatpatanakit, Vice President, Chiang Mai University</p>
10:50-11:05	Coffee Break
11:05-12:40	<p><b>Parallel Sessions</b> <b>PS1: Crises of Sustainability in ASEAN: Urgent Proposals for Creative Institutionalization of Transformative Learning</b> Chair: Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti, Executive Director, ASEAN University Network</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Associate Professor Dr. Yeoh Seng-Guan, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University Malaysia, Malaysia “Can Study Trips Save Asia?: A Case-Study of the SASS ‘In Search of’ Study Trips”</li> </ol>



## VII. BANGKOK FORUM PROGRAM

Bangkok Forum 2018  
“Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability”

**DAY 2: Thursday, 25 October 2018**

Time	Activity
11:05-12:40	<p><b>Parallel Sessions</b></p> <p>PS1: (continued from page 141)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Mr. Theodore Mayer, Academic Director, Institute for Transformative Learning of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists, Thailand “How Innovations in the Higher Learning Classroom Can Help Transform the Growing Crises of Climate Change and Social Inequality in Asia: A Concrete Proposal”</li> <li>3. Dr. M. Nadarajah (Nat), Chair Professor, Xavier Centre for Humanities and Compassion Studies, Xavier University Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India “Going Beyond Hegemonic Stories and Silos: Towards a Transdisciplinary School of New Humanities and Social Sciences”</li> </ol> <p>Discussant: Prof. Surichai Wun’Gaeo, Professor Emeritus, Director, Peace and Conflict Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand</p> <p><b>PS2:</b> <b>Development of a Framework for the Local Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b></p> <p>Chair: Professor Dr. Mario T. Tabucanon, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, Japan</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Mari Kosaka, Keio University, Japan, (on behalf of Prof. Norichika Kanie) “Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of a Community in Toyooka, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan”</li> <li>2. Dr. Sayamol Charoenratana, Deputy Director, Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute, Thailand “Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of a Community in Nan Province, Thailand”</li> <li>3. Professor Dr. Nestor Castro, Professor of Anthropology, University of the Philippines, Diliman, the Philippines “Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of a Community in Quezon City, the Philippines”</li> <li>4. Associate Professor Dr. Smriti Das, Associate Professor, TERI School of Advanced Studies, India “Framework for Local Implementation of SDGs: Case Study of Delhi, India”</li> </ol> <p>Discussant: Ms. Ushio Miura, Programme Specialist, UNESCO, Bangkok, Thailand</p>



Bangkok Forum 2018  
“Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability”

**DAY 2: Thursday, 25 October 2018**

Time	Activity
11:05-12:40	<p><b>Parallel Sessions</b>  <b>PS3: Ecological Crisis, Knowledge Imbalances and Innovation Strategy</b>  Chair: Mr. Boonthan T. Verawongse, Secretary General, Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF) Thailand; Co-convenor, Thailand High-Level Political Forum Alliance, Thailand</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Associate Professor Dr. Chanathip Pharino, Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University; Program Director, Public Wellbeing Division, Thailand Research Fund, Thailand “Mitigating Urban Flooding Impacts: Waste Management Service Sector”</li> <li>2. Associate Professor Dr. Kohei Watanabe, Teikyo University, Japan “Municipal Waste Management—Seeking the Balance between Efficiency and Participation”</li> <li>3. Ms. Penchom Saetang, Director, Ecological Alert and Recovery—Thailand (EARTH) “Citizen Science and Its Role as a Participatory Tool in Achieving SDGs (Under Threats of the Uncontrollable Movement of Toxic Waste)”</li> </ol> <p>Discussant: Mr. Naoya Tsukamoto, Director, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP), Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand</p>
12:40-13:40	Lunch Break
13:40-15:00	<p><b>Parallel Sessions</b>  <b>PS4: Human Capital Social Sustainability in the Context of Aging Asian Society</b>  Chair: Associate Professor Dr. Vipap Prachuabmoh, Dean, College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professor Gavin Jones, Emeritus Professor, Australian National University, Australia “Gender and Socio-Economic Gaps in Educational Attainment and the Labor Market”</li> <li>2. Dr. Elke Loichinger, Senior Research Fellow, Federal Institute for Population Research, Germany “Productive Aging and Social Sustainability: Prospects, Opportunities and Challenges”</li> <li>3. Dr. Yoon-Jeong Shin, Research Fellow, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA), Republic of Korea “Gender Equality in Education and Employment in Korea”</li> </ol> <p>Discussant: Dr. Harin Sachdev, Director, Learning, Research and Technology, Initiative Center for Livable City Management and Environmental Sustainability, Mahidol University, Thailand</p>



## VII. BANGKOK FORUM PROGRAM

Bangkok Forum 2018  
“Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability”

**DAY 2: Thursday, 25 October 2018**

Time	Activity
13:40-15:00	<p><b>Parallel Sessions</b></p> <p><b>PS5 : The Heartware of Sustainability—Faith, Spirituality, and Local Wisdom”</b></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Hezri Adnan, Senior Director, Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia; Former member of the United Nations’ International Resource Panel (IRP), Malaysia</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Priyanut Dharmapiya (Piboolsravut), Director, Sufficiency School Center, Foundation of Virtuous Youth, Thailand “Right Mindset in Development: Sufficiency Economy Philosophy”</li> <li>2. Ms. Supa Yaimuang, Director, Sustainable Agriculture Foundation, Thailand “Sustainability through Community Collaborations: Linking Rural Knowledge and Wisdom to Urban Challenges”</li> <li>3. Dr. Mochamad Indrawan, Research Scientist, Research Center for Climate Change – University of Indonesia, Indonesia “Making Spirituality Work for Sustainability: Transformative Learning of the People of the Forest Margins”</li> <li>4. Professor Ananta Kumar Giri, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, India “With and Beyond Sustainable Development: Towards New Planetary Heartworks and the Calling of Evolutionary Flourishing”</li> </ol> <p>Discussant: Dr. Dicky Sofjan, Core Doctoral Faculty, Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies, Indonesia</p> <p><b>PS6: The Role of Think Tanks as Driving Force for a More Sustainable Asia</b></p> <p>Chair: Professor Jin Guangyao, Director, Asia Research Center, Fudan University, China</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Associate Professor Yi Shen, Director, Center for BRICS Studies &amp; Research Center for the Governance of Cyberspace, Fudan University, China “Exploring a Pragmatic Model of the Think Tank Building in the University”</li> <li>2. Associate Professor Li Chun Fu, Zhou Enlai School of Government, Nankai University, China “Examining the Denuclearization Process of the Korean Peninsula from Perspective of Peaceful Development”</li> <li>3. Ms. Zhu Hongrui, Policy Analyst, Fudan Development Institute, Fudan University, China “The Characteristics of China’s University Think Tanks and the Practical Paths in Promoting Social Sustainable Development”</li> </ol> <p>Discussant: Professor Dr. Tae Yong Jung, Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS); Director, Research Center for Global Sustainability, Yonsei University, Republic of Korea</p>
15:00-15:15	Coffee Break

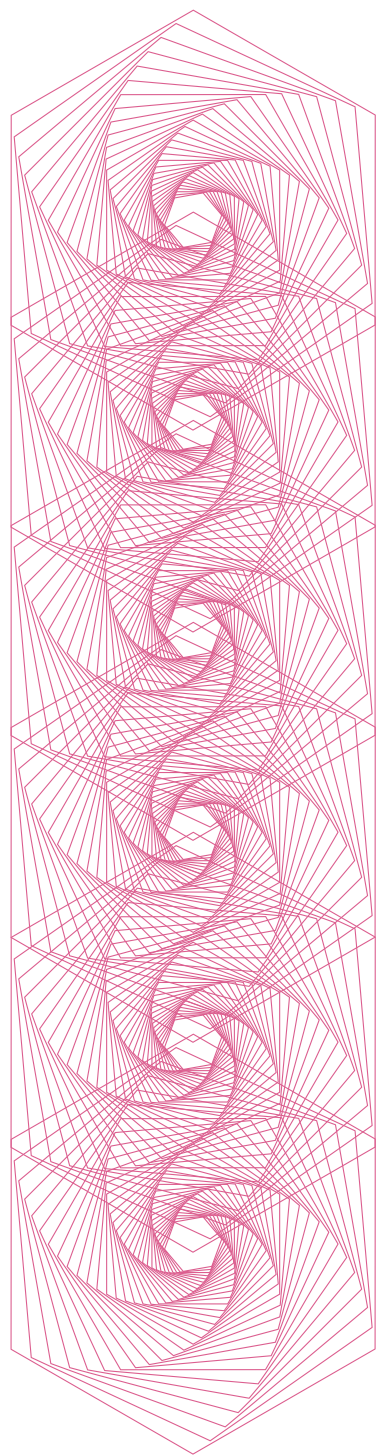


Bangkok Forum 2018  
“Integrating Knowledge for Social Sustainability”

**DAY 2: Thursday, 25 October 2018**

Time	Activity
15:15-16:45	<p><b>Plenary Session IV – Peddling Inequality to Social Sustainability in ASEAN</b> Chair: Dr. Thorn Pitidol, Center of Research on Inequality and Social Policy (CRISP), Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, Thailand</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professor Dr. Jonathan Rigg, Director, Asia Research Institute and Provost’s Chair, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, Singapore “Both Worse and Better than It Seems: From Inequality Data to Inequality Experiences”</li> <li>2. Associate Professor Dr. Veerayooth Kanchoochat, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo, Japan “Welfare State-building in Europe and East Asia: Political Economy Lessons”</li> <li>3. Ms. Ermina Sokou, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, UNESCAP “Who are the Furthest Behind in Asia and the Pacific? Measuring Inequality of Opportunity”</li> <li>4. Dr. Chheang Vannarith, Associate Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute; Advisor, Cambodia Civil Society Alliance Forum “Regional Community Building in Southeast Asia: The Need to Pursue Social Sustainability and Social Innovation”</li> </ol> <p>Discussant: Dr. Somchai Jitsuchon, Research Director, Inclusive Development, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Thailand</p>
16:45-17:30	<p><b>Wrap Up and Statement of Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Dr. Pirongrong Ramasoota, Vice President for Social Outreach and Global Engagement; Chulalongkorn University, Project Director, Bangkok Forum 2018</li> <li>• Professor Surichai Wun’Gao, Director, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, Chulalongkorn University; Chair, Academic Sub-committee, Bangkok Forum 2018</li> <li>• Mrs. Lahpai Seng Raw, Founder, Metta Development Foundation, Myanmar</li> <li>• Professor Dr. Tae Yong Jung, Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS); Director, Research Center for Global Sustainability, Yongsei University, Republic of Korea</li> </ul>







## VIII. FUNDING PARTNERS



Gulf Energy Development Public Company Limited



KASIKORNBANK Public Company Limited



Thai Beverage Public Company Limited



MBK Public Company Limited

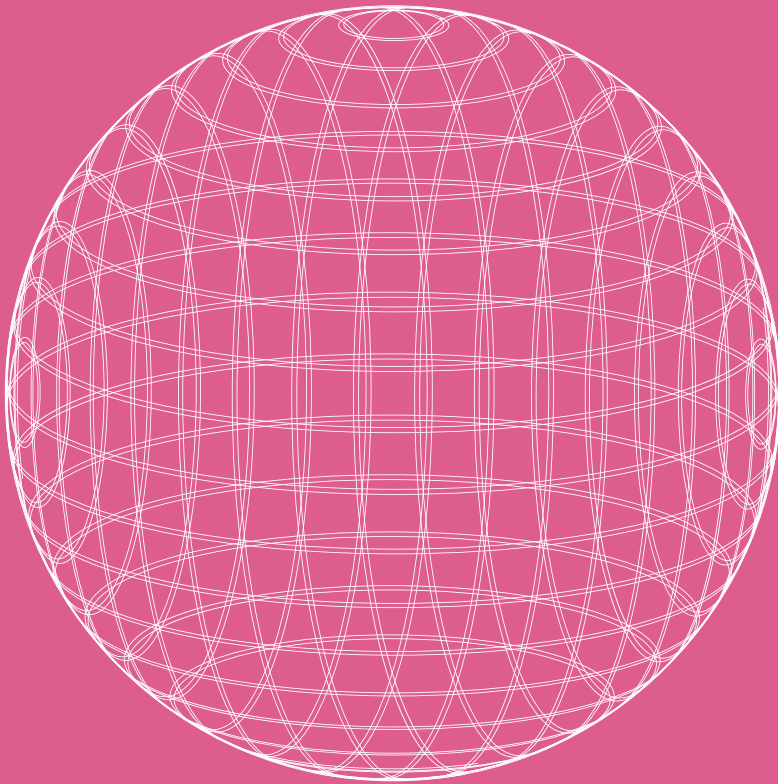


Toyota Mahanakorn Company Limited



Golden Land Property Development PLC







## SECRETARIAT TEAM

### Project director, head of the Secretariat:

Prof. Dr. Pirongrong Ramasoota, Vice President for Social Outreach and Global Engagement

### Protocol coordination:

Dr. Nunghatai Rangponsumrit, Faculty of Arts

### Public relations:

Dr. Alongkorn Parivudhiphongs, Assistant to the President for Social Outreach and Global Engagement

Ms. Dharinee Chaiprapal, Chulalongkorn University Communication Center

Mr. Suradech Panlee, Chulalongkorn University Communication Center

Ms. Supawan Pipitsombut, Chula International Communication Center

### Project strategy and coordination:

Ms. Michiko Yoshida, Senior Research Coordinator, Institute of Asian Studies

### Publication coordination:

Ms. Narumol Aphinives

### Website:

Dr. Nattee Niparnan, Faculty of Engineering

### Communication support and data management:

Ms. Rungsinee Chaikool

Ms. Pataravadee Sahaphongse, Asia Research Center

Ms. Duangporn Marksiri, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

### Logistical managements:

Ms. Dharinee Chaiprapal, Director, Chulalongkorn University Communication Center

Ms. Kanokwan Yimju, Chulalongkorn University Communication Center

Ms. Kanjanapa Watthanatam, Chulalongkorn University Communication Center

### Accounting:

Ms. Pornpimol Sae-laow, Chula International Communication Center

Ms. Thanapa Sartserm, Chulalongkorn University Communication Center

### Contact

Chulalongkorn University

254 Phayathai Road, Pathum Wan, Bangkok 10330 Thailand

bkkforum@chula.ac.th











BKKFORUM.CHULA.AC.TH

Co-hosted by



Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies

한 국 고 등 교 육 재 단