

UCRSEA PARTNERSHIP UPDATE, MAY-AUGUST 2017

UCRSEA Partnership Project;

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Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia Partnership

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE
May – August 2017

3rd UCRSEA Annual Workshop: Collaborative Research for the Future of Cities



On May 8th, 2017, the Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia Partnership (UCRSEA) held its third annual workshop in Battambang, Cambodia with an address by H.E. Nguon Ratanak the Provincial Deputy Governor of Battambang and keynote speech by Jonathan Rigg, professor at the Department of Geography and Director of the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore, a well-known figure in Southeast Asian research communities.

Battambang, chosen as the site of the workshop and one of UCRSEA's partner cities due to its potential for rapid

urban and economic growth, has a municipal government with a unique interest in climate change and associated risks.

“Our ancestors told us we must think first, do later. So this [urban climate resilience] research aligns with our saying because we have to think a lot or else create impacts later,” said H.E. Nguon Ratanak through a translator. This foresight perhaps comes from necessity. “People in this region are familiar with climate [disasters],” he continued. Battambang city and the greater Battambang province have experienced both drought and severe flooding in recent years.

Due to Battambang's susceptibility to climate disasters, which can also be exacerbated by the urban sprawl the city is experiencing, it is one of the few in the region with a master plan for urban development that includes an awareness for climate change's impacts on building a “livable, healthy, [and] prosperous city.” H.E. Nguon Ratanak, however, noted that the plan is “not perfect” and welcomed the chance for the assembled researchers to help improve it.

In his keynote address, Dr. Jonathan Rigg also addressed the future of communities such as Battambang, which straddle the line between urban and rural. He analyzed how the urbanization process and the change in the environment impact residents' livelihoods and reshape urban poverty and vulnerability.

Battambang's growth points to a larger trend of economic development in Southeast Asia. The percent of the population living on less than 1.25USD has shrunk rapidly from 40% in 1990 to 14% in 2010. Yet, Dr. Rigg argued that this statistic alone obscures more complex realities of change. While on paper poverty may be on its way to "eradication" according to the World Bank poverty threshold, participating more actively in a capitalist economy comes with its own set of vulnerabilities as people sell off farmland to participate in short-term labor contracts in cities and factories, and the booming population of such urban areas outstrips the capacity of the current infrastructure – as typically witnessed by the insufficiency of waste and water management infrastructures.

Based on the case studies of eight secondary cities in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, UCRSEA's work aims to illuminate the impacts of climate and environmental change on Southeast Asia's changing landscape and growing economy. That goal can only be achieved with the collaboration of municipal governments, such as Battambang's, that are tasked with governing some of the most rapidly changing areas in the region.



PROJECT NEWS

2nd Regional Curriculum Development Workshop held in Siem Reap

Following on the heels of the Annual Workshop, the 2nd Regional Curriculum Development Workshop was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on May 13th. It brought together academics from the Mekong countries and Canada to explore and identify options for collaboration of academics between universities in the Mekong countries and in Canada under the UCRSEA framework. Participants also shared and exchanged information on syllabi, study programmes, and teaching materials and techniques.

To devise a training programme applicable and suitable to the Mekong context, discussions centered around planning and developing the new course,

where it will be taught, and timelines for delivering the course and for a Training for Trainers. The discussions on a new course/subject were based on the Sustainable Development Framework, focusing on the SDGs 11 (Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts). As was agreed in the first workshop held in Bangkok, Sustainability Science will address local, national and regional needs and issues, include multidisciplinary physical and social sciences subjects, cover research and practical skills with tools and methodologies to enhance the decision-making process, and require regional collaboration.

It was agreed that the Canadian academic partners will formulate and provide a training programme for

academics from the Mekong countries. This training programme will assist them in developing a new syllabus and teaching this new course/subject in their own departments. It was suggested that Prof. Lisa Drummond (York University, Canada) will lead in the development and delivery of a Training for Trainers programme for participating academics from the Mekong countries. It was decided that this new course would become a component of the new degree programme and would be taught across the Greater Mekong Sub-region. This will allow the participating academics to share teaching materials and resources as well as to exchange insights and challenges.

It is expected that the new course will be delivered in mid 2018.

Proposal Write-Shop on “Engaging Cities in Climate Resilience”

A “Proposal Write-shop” was run on May 15th in Phnom Penh, in which graduate students working with the UCRSEA project and potential future students came together to develop research proposals to address the growing problem of climate change for cities in Southeast Asia. The focus was on developing better research questions and research design within a short proposal.

The workshop also aimed to facilitate exchange between UCRSEA graduate students based in Southeast Asia and those in Canada, and to forge links between the UCRSEA research team and Southeast Asian graduate students. A total of 14 students participated in the workshop.

Profs. Amrita Daniere, Lisa Drummond, Douglas Young, Vanessa Lamb and Dr. Danny Marks served as presenters and discussants.

New Collaborators from Laos, Myanmar and Thailand join UCRSEA

UCRSEA welcomes three new collaborators to the Partnership Project. The University of Yangon, the Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna and the National University of Laos joined recently, which

bring to 16 the number of collaborators and partners participating in UCRSEA.



Dr. Htun Ko, who is from the Department of Geography, the University of Yangon, is already an active participant in UCRSEA activities. He has participated in academic seminars (held in Yangon) and has been conducting vulnerability assessment in Bago and Dawei, two UCRSEA target cities in Myanmar. Other members of the University of Yangon are also involved in UCRSEA activities, including Dr. Nilar Aung who is engaged in curriculum development, an important activity under UCRSEA.

Dr Soukhan Chithpanya, Head of Urban Environment Department, National University of Laos, is also actively involved in UCRSEA activities and has participated in the Theory of Change training and air quality monitoring training. His networks and engagement with local and national governments in Laos will be valuable for UCRSEA.



Dr. Unggoon Wongtagoon of the Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna is actively involved in UCRSEA activities on citizen science and air quality monitoring in one of the secondary cities in Thailand and has participated in UCRSEA meetings and workshops with MSU.

In the meantime, Mercy Corps Myanmar is currently represented by Mr. Leo Roozendaal who replaced Mr. Nilan Fernando. Leo is the new Country Director and is interested in stakeholders' engagement in Dawei.

Midterm Review Successfully Completed

UCRSEA underwent and successfully passed a midterm review in the Spring which allowed continued funding from SSHRC and IDRC. The review aimed to assess the progress of its activities against the stated goals and objectives of the partnership outlined in the application and milestone report.

The project was evaluated based on progress towards: (1) advancing knowledge objectives; (2) policy and practice objectives; (3) training objectives; (4) a functional and appropriate governance and management structure; (5) engagement of partner organizations in the project; and (6) continued commitment of the University of Toronto, as host institution, and partner organizations in securing the cash and in-kind contribution requirements from SSHRC.

Reviewers commended the project staff's efforts in coordinating a multi-institutional network and training graduate students, which they recognize as challenging. To maximize the collaboration, they made two major recommendations. Firstly, the team should produce a forward-looking strategy of how the research will be used and potentially inform policy and produce policy briefs. The team was encouraged to consider events in the region where it might participate and collaborate with other initiatives. And secondly, the team should further demonstrate how partner institutions are collaborating in meaningful ways in research activities and knowledge dissemination and communicating effectively, not just through the annual workshops.

UCRSEA at the 2017 Annual Conference of Canadian Association of Geographers

On May 31st, UCRSEA organized a double panel session, "Addressing the Challenges of Urban Climate Change Resilience and Vulnerability in Southeast Asia", at the Canadian Association of Geographers 2017 Conference held in Toronto, Canada. UCRSEA staff members and students presented their research under the UCRSEA project.

The first panel featured the following presentations:



■ *Leaving the coast: the interplay of migration, well-being and resilience in Cambodian coastal fishing communities* by Furqan Asif (University of Ottawa) tackled the role migration plays as a

livelihood strategy in fishing communities in Koh Kong, Cambodia. The discordance between material wellbeing and subjective wellbeing was also examined. Furqan concluded by emphasizing the 'interweaving' of the rural and urban and how this is catalyzing a mobility transformation in Cambodia.

- *In The cascading impacts of migration and environmental challenges: Experiences of Myanmar labour migrants in Phuket, Thailand*, Angelica de Jesus (University of Toronto) brought attention to the challenges faced by Myanmar migrants in Phuket and how these conditions are linked to the structural violence in society. She also highlighted how social constructs, such as gender, residency status, place, and family, have shaped labor migrants' lives in Phuket. She used case studies of water supply and migrants' housing conditions to show how they have become highly vulnerable to climate risks.



- *Migrants, Landlords and the Law on Residence: Vulnerability in Hanoi's Uncounted Population* by Jonathan de Luca (York University) showed the social and political complexities within which informal workers and migrant residents of Hanoi negotiate access to essential services such as water and housing. These make them more vulnerable to climate risks because of their limited access to these services. He also illustrated how unequal power relations adversely affect their resilience.
- *It's not just the climate that is changing: climate-adaptive development in industrializing coastal Koh Kong, Cambodia* by Jason Horlings and Melissa Marshcke (University of Ottawa) examined the climate-adaptive capacity of residents in Koh Kong

who work at a special economic zone (SEZ). While SEZ employment is strengthening their development capacities, their climate-adaptive capacities, however, remain weak. Jason highlighted the importance of household agency which is needed to reorganize livelihood strategies and locations in order to positively influence climate adaptive development.



The second panel tackled the following topics:

- In *Pushed to the Edge: Citizenship, Vulnerability, and the Temporal Allocation of Rights and Protections in the Informal Settlements of Khon Kaen, Thailand*, Nathan Stewart (University of Toronto) found that the entitlements of slum communities in Khon Kaen are being blocked by the State Railway of Thailand's ownership of the land on which they reside, which denies them access to basic services and creates uneven vulnerability to climate risks. He called for the recognition of the importance of socioeconomic and political factors in constraining adaptive capacity.
- Dr. Danny Marks' (University of Toronto) paper on *Building Resilience of the Poor to Climate Change in Thailand's Secondary Cities: Case Study from Khon Khaen* focused on his research on two slum communities in Khon Kaen along the railway tracks, where a vast majority of residents lacks access to tap water. In particular, they were badly affected by the climate-induced droughts of 2015 and 2016 because the groundwater dried up. Danny concluded with recommendations on how to improve residents' resilience to drought.
- *Urban Governance of Flooding in Myanmar: A Case Study of Bago* by Graham Reeder (York University) discussed the governance of flooding in Bago, a city

which experienced heavy flooding in 2015, caused by international, national, and local actors. He discovered that how flooding is understood as a disaster is shaped by social and economic forces in the community as well as the state. He also cautioned against flood response measures which may require budgets or technical capacities beyond the government's means.

The three presentations were followed by an excellent discussion of the papers by Prof. Douglas Young, UCRSEA Co-Investigator.

Although the presenters conducted research in different locations throughout Southeast Asia, a couple of key similarities emerged in the presentations. First, they are all rich, empirical case studies of how urban vulnerability is socio-environmental, or products of human society interacting with nature, and highly contextual, shaped by specific histories and geographies in each location. Second, these papers thoughtfully engaged with the possibility of enhancing governance capacity around urban climate change impacts, with the goal of improving ordinary people in these cities.

UCRSEA Panel at ICAS10, Chiang Mai

UCRSEA convened two panel sessions at the International Convention of Asian Scholars (ICAS 10) held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on July 20-23 under the title, *"Trends and Trajectories of the Mekong Region: Understanding the Implications of Regionalisation, Urbanisation and Climate Change"*. Dr. Pakamas Thinphanga, Arika Bridhikitti, Daniel Hayward, Hoa Lo Thanh, Ei Shwe Sin Phyo and Try Thuon shared their respective research.



In the first panel, Dr. Pakamas Thinphanga provided an overview of the urbanization process and climate vulnerability in the Mekong region and a background of the current state of urbanization in Southeast Asia, which she described as an often unregulated, rapid and highly transformative process. However, the urban-transformative process has been fraught with weak institutional capacity and poor regulation in land use and urban planning. This, in turn, is creating increased risk and vulnerability with much greater spatial implications than before due to the interconnected nature of today's cities. Urbanization is showing new characteristics of vulnerability through multiple systems and scales.

Daniel Hayward's presentation, *"Engagement and dialogues on urbanisation and climate change challenges to contribute to the comprehensive local development planning in Hatxaifong, Lao PDR"* noted the slow progress of the Vientiane local government to undertake a comprehensive local planning study by commissioning the National University of Laos' Faculty of Architecture. The delay could be due to an administrative top-down system in Vientiane with a strong traditional hierarchy. The trend occurring in Laos is that national development is framed in primarily socio-economic terms of poverty reduction through large-scale infrastructure investment and resource exploitation. Overall, Daniel argued, the main issues in Laos' developmental governance are budget constraints, capacity deficit, high staff turnover/changeover, competing departments, lack of ownership, lack of incentives, anti-planning environment and lack of oversight.

Try Thuon's paper, *"Urban political ecology of spatial planning and climate change: a case study from Battambang"*, examined socio-environmental change through the lens of unequal power relations and access rights. In Battambang, Cambodia, which is still dominated by agricultural land use (74%), close border economic integration with neighboring countries, a tourism network and creation of development zones are driving urbanization. This is also influencing the growth of commercial urban centres. However, this land use did not take into account environmental stresses and climate impact, which is leading to increased vulnerability from flooding, intensified by the growth of informal settlement. Try also noted that the former noble class

have become a part of the political working groups, who often co-opt with business to invest on strategic land resources. This leaves only external groups such as NGOs to deal with poverty issues, such as the politicization of water.

In the second panel, Arika Bridhikitti aimed to assess the adaptive capacity of Mukdahan SEZ to deal with problems relating to climatic events and rapid growth in her paper, *"Adaptive capacities of Mukdahan Special Economic Zone (MSEZ) to environmental deteriorations and climate change"*. Mukdahan, which is in Thailand's northeast region, is made up of three districts, is in the middle of the east-west economic corridor and connected to Laos by the second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge. It is also seeing rapid GDP rise with economic integration. However, Arika argued, since Mukdahan is predicted to have a two-degree temperature rise in the next century, a three-step plan must be put in place to deal with these issues. First, an analysis of the situation, where local vulnerabilities must be identified. Second, an endpoint identification, where the most vulnerable people and groups are identified. Third, an adaptive assessment, where creative solutions are put forward to mitigate these issues, such as introduction of water from other sources via truck.

Ei Shwe Sin Phyoo's paper, *"Urban Climate Change Resilience in Bago in Lower Myanmar"*, explored water vulnerability in Bago. Bago, a regional capital and fourth largest city in Myanmar, suffers from severe river flooding due to tropical monsoons. In 2011, there were two major floods. The lower portions of the central river are severely polluted and overall urban drainage systems are poor due to increased population and invalidation of conventional drainage system. This has led to increased instances of flooding and solid waste in river systems. The local government response has been limited due to budget constraints and local monasteries still serving as central points in emergency systems. Its climate vulnerability, therefore, remains high.

Hoa Lo Thanh discussed challenges from increased tourism and land use change in Ninh Binh province in his paper, *"Women's adaptations to new developments caused by urbanization and climate change in Truong Yen commune, Ninh Binh Province, Vietnam"*. Tourism serves as a means of growth and investment capital in Ninh Binh; infrastructure improvement is seen as good

for locals. However, it is facing challenges from climate change through increased and more powerful storm systems and increased patterns of rainfall, leading to flooding and storm vulnerability. As land availability decreases, more farmers are entering the service

industry. Yet, there are more than 2,500 boatwomen employed by the tourism industry, which often disrupts the traditional household structure.

Airbeam Training Workshops held in Myanmar



The Myanmar Project team held two training workshops on the proper use of the Airbeam, an environmental measurement device, on July 4–5 at Bago University and July 6–7 at Maubin University. Specifically, the training workshops aimed to: (1) teach participants about PM 2.5, its sources and why it is harmful to health; (2) teach participants how to use the device, upload the data to the Aircasting website and use the website; and (3) help participants plan on how they can use the device for teaching, research, and advocacy.

The Airbeam was first introduced to the Myanmar Project Team earlier this year. It allows users to measure four environmental variables, i.e., humidity, sound level, particulate matter (PM2.5) and temperature, and is done on the open-source aircasting platform for collecting, displaying and sharing environmental data in a timely manner. It can take measurements, interpret and compare data

from different geographical areas/regions. The device serves as a research and advocacy tool to encourage community engagement in dealing with urban environmental issues. Citizens can use the findings to engage in shared learning dialogues with municipal officials and other actors on how their cities should address these issues.

Bago, one of the UCRSEA secondary cities is a fast-growing city. As such, there is an urgency to conduct the environmental awareness in line with its development. As Yangon is already very crowded and has limited land area, the government is planning to build the new Hanthawaddy international airport near Bago City.

The workshop was organized by the Bago University Rector, Pro-Rector and some faculty members as well as officials from the Department of Basic Education, Environmental Conservation Department and Regional Health Department. A total 22 trainees and 10 observers, including young academics, participated.

The AirBeam training in Maubin, though not a UCRSEA Project secondary city, was held upon the request of the Maubin University Rector and faculty members after a meeting and presentation made by Professor Saw Win in June. Thirty-one trainees and 22 observers from the University, Environmental Conservation Department, Department of Basic Education, Forest Department, and Regional Health Department, including the District Administrative Officer, high school teachers, students, and the Township Officer, participated.

In both workshops, activities included collection of data within the universities and in areas around the two cities and uploading these on the Aircasting website. The trips were especially useful as it allowed participants to discover which



areas have the better or worse air quality. These were then followed by discussions and sharing among the groups on what they learned and how they plan to use the device in the future.



After the workshop, the trainers provided one device to each university so they can proceed with the research and data collection. Although the workshops were a new experience for the participants, they expressed their keen interest.

Among the key results/lessons learned from these workshops were:

- This was the first time air quality was measured in Myanmar. Although air quality measurement is still weak in Myanmar, participants' knowledge on air pollution was greatly enhanced, particularly in regions where it has never been monitored.
- Participants gained experience using the Airbeam and making air quality data available on the AirCasting website, being able to share them and compare with other regions or countries.

- Since the Airbeam is easy to use, it was also easy to teach it to others, such as to high school students in Maubin workshop.
- The Airbeam is a very useful device for University researchers to conduct their research on environmental issues in more depth, especially as it can collect data with spatial information and PM 2.5 values.
- A number of partners has concrete plans for using the devices to enhance their research, teaching, and advocacy.

Participants also identified the following challenges, gaps and follow-up actions:

- There is a limited number of Airbeams available for partners. There should be at least one device per institution.
- Most participants would like to hold more workshops like these and learn about other devices, beside the Airbeam, which are just as affordable and effective.
- Although some partners have clear plans for using the device, they still want to learn more about methodologies on how to approach PM 2.5 and reduce it effectively. There is a need to follow up with them and help them further develop their plans.



Building Urban Resilience in Myanmar

by Tammy Chou



Mercy Corps Myanmar is expanding its resilience portfolio through a joint initiative with the Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia Partnership (UCRSEA). Dawei, located in the southern coast of Myanmar in Tanintharyi Region, has been identified as a secondary city with the potential to experience rapid urbanization driven by industrialization from the proposed Dawei Special Economic Zone (DSEZ). Slated to become one of the largest industrial zones in the world at nearly 200 km², the DSEZ could potentially attract greater foreign investment and industrialization into Myanmar. Along with this, it can also bring significant social and environmental risks that can harm communities in Dawei.

The first phase of the development is proposed to cover 27 km², featuring projects that focus on building up the infrastructure needed to support future industry. This includes a two-lane road to Thailand, a residential township, a small sea port, LNG terminal, and a regional power plant. The overall master plan includes a deep-sea port, industries for logistics and transportation, oil and gas, hydropower, and water reservoirs.

Future development of the industrial zone may pose additional risks such as land grabbing, sea grabbing, pollution from industry, loss of biodiversity, strain on existing water supply, and negative impacts to human health. Through the UCRSEA network, Mercy Corps Myanmar is also collaborating with the Thailand Environment Institute to draw on lessons learned from the failed Map Ta Phut industrial estate in Rayong Province, Thailand.

The DSEZ could lead to a dramatic transformation of the social, economic, and environmental landscape of the Dawei region. In order to mitigate potential adverse impacts from the development, and to ensure that local communities fully benefit from the investment, there is an urgent need to strengthen social and environmental safeguards and to increase urban resilience within Dawei.

In June 2017, Mercy Corps conducted a stakeholder mapping of the DSEZ to determine the project's current status and to identify who the key decision-makers affecting the governance of the DSEZ are. The research team conducted 34 stakeholder interviews with international and local NGO representatives, CSOs, government officials, academics, and business leaders. These interviews took place in Bangkok, Yangon, Dawei and Naypyitaw to gain insights on the type of programming and activities that have taken place in Dawei, and the extent of social and environmental safeguarding that has been achieved in the region so far. The stakeholder mapping was also done to measure stakeholder power and interest, and to identify influential stakeholders who can be later engaged.



Tammy Chou is a UCRSEA Intern and Graduate Student of Planning at the University of Toronto. She spent her summer internship at Mercy Corps Myanmar from May-July 2017.

Graduate Fellowship Recipients join York University

Piti Srivongchai of Khon Kaen University and Ly Quoc Dang of Chiang Mai University are the 2017 UCRSEA Graduate Fellowship recipients. They will spend 12 weeks (September-November) in the Fall at York University's Centre for Asian Research under the supervision of Prof. Douglas Young, UCRSEA Co-Investigator.



Piti will work on his research on "Low Carbon City Model for Khon Kaen Municipality", which aims to investigate factors that influence individual carbon emission behavior and propose guidelines to reduce the carbon emissions in Khon Kaen. Dang, on the other hand, plans to analyze data he has collected for his research, "Gender Dimensions of Flooding Vulnerability and Governance in Can Tho, Vietnam", and to write a paper or two. While in Toronto, they will also meet with other project staff based at the University of Toronto, attend the Canadian Council of Southeast Asian Studies (CCSEAS) Conference on 26-27 October, and participate in other UCRSEA activities such as the Virtual Seminars.

The fellowship is designed with a self-directed approach and a focus on individual research and study related to urban climate change and resilience in Southeast Asia.

2017 Graduate Research Funding in Southeast Asia Awards



Dara Lim, a graduate student in Development Studies at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, and Tay Zar Myo Win, a graduate student in International Development Studies at Chulalongkorn University, are the 2017 UCRSEA recipients of graduate research funding in Southeast Asia.

Dara is conducting his graduate thesis research on "Clean Water Access during Seasonal Flooding: Case Battambang Urban Poor, Cambodia" funded by UCRSEA. His research objective is to understand how climate hazards impact the livelihoods of the urban poor in Battambang. He is in the process of preparing his thesis research report for publication in an internal journal.

Tay Zar, on the other hand, will focus on the politics of urban governance in Dawei Township, Thanintaryi Region, Myanmar. His



research interests are on decentralization, local government, and public participation in politics. He has developed civic and voter education curriculum for the training which were conducted in remote areas of Myanmar and managed multiple grants with civil society organizations to implement the projects providing voter education, promoting of democracy, human rights, and civic engagement towards a more inclusive transition in Myanmar.

UCRSEA STAFF NEWS

New Postdoctoral Fellow joins UCRSEA in Fall 2017



Dr. Yanjun Cai is UCRSEA's Postdoctoral Fellow for 2017/2018 and is expected to join the project in Fall 2017. She completed her PhD in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in December 2016. Her doctoral dissertation, *"Photovoice for Vulnerability: Resilience Building in the Philippines"*, was funded by the Toyota Foundation and recognized by the MIT Climate CoLab Popular Choice Award. Dr. Cai has years of research and practice experience in resiliency planning, environmental policy, participatory governance, and community capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region. She has worked with a number of organizations, including the

Asian Development Bank, University of the Philippines, University at Albany, and NGOs in the Philippines, China, and Vietnam. Her publications include among others, *"Bonding, bridging, and linking: photovoice for resilience through social capital"* (2017), *Natural Hazards*, 88(2), 1169-1195.

Farewell to Danny and Jasmine

This summer, UCRSEA bid adieu to two project staff. Dr. Danny Marks, Postdoctoral Fellow, left at the end of July for the Department of Asian and International Studies of the City University of Hong Kong as Assistant Professor. Danny organized the Citizen Science Workshops held earlier this year in Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar and conducted his research in Khon Kaen. He also worked with partners throughout the region to assist in their activities.

Jasmine An, UCRSEA's Communications and Research Associate, went at the end of June to pursue graduate studies. She had been responsible for the *UCRSEA Partnership Update* and *UCRSEA News Roundup* as well as research documentation and communication.

We thank them for their valuable contributions to UCRSEA and wish them the best.

NEW UCRSEA PUBLICATIONS

Thinking with a *Kampung*

Indrawan Prabahyaka, Technische Universität München, Germany

This is an ethnographically inspired essay which is a preliminary rehearsal of how a *kampung* thinks. *Kampung* is a form of vernacular ecology that abounds in, but is not limited to, Southeast Asia, with which one can approach climate in a more lateral manner. The exercise is to rethink resilience with a *kampung* in Jakarta and the accomplishment is to re-specify the concept as one of the most ordinary things that occurs in everyday life.

Cities, Complex Systems, and Climate Governance: A Critical Review of the Literature

Rebecca McMillan, University of Toronto

Complexity theory has returned to vogue particularly within the environmental change literature. Much urban climate resilience literature suggests that cities are complex adaptive systems, so governance and planning must draw on insights from the complexity literature. In the context of climate change, this means that governance must be flexible, participatory, and adaptive in order to confront climate change's unpredictable effects. This working paper critically reviews the literature at the intersection of complexity and urban climate change governance. It argues that

complexity theory's contributions are more modest than recent interest suggests. While complexity theory brings much-needed attention to dynamic ecologies upon which cities depend and the realities of uncertainty in policymaking – particularly important in contexts of climatic change – it is inadequate for theorizing urbanization and environmental change, which are contested social processes. As critics suggest, complexity theory tends to portray urban change as occurring through relatively neutral evolutionary dynamics that can be objectively understood and managed by actors involved in governance who share similar goals. This disregards important insights from political ecology on how knowledge, power, and urban ecologies are co-produced. How we understand a city is important because these understandings underpin climate change responses with real world effects, particularly for the most vulnerable urban residents.

ZOTERO LIBRARY

A public Zotero library has been set up and organized, which can be accessed through the following link: https://www.zotero.org/groups/1852559/ucrsea_references.

Please note that there are two library groups:

- **UCRSEA References:** This is the public library, which has approximately 360 references to date.
- **UCRSEA Library:** It has approximately 60 references (including the pdf version of papers). A Zotero account is required to join the group to have access to the library. To join, go to: https://www.zotero.org/groups/492087/ucrsea_library. As it is a PUBLIC library, it is not possible to include attachments (the pdf version of the papers) or edit the entries.

For questions on how to use it and for more information, please contact Dr. Gwenn Pulliat, gwenn.pulliat@utoronto.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Current UCRSEA Open Call Funding Competitions

[2018 Call for Graduate Student Research Funding](#)

Deadline Extension:
15 November 2017

[2018 Graduate Fellowship in Urban Climate Resilience](#)

Deadline: 1 February 2018

[UCRSEA Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2018-2019](#)

Deadline: 28 February 2018

Doing Fieldwork in the Global South Seminar, 9 November 2017

The UCRSEA Partnership Project is holding a seminar on “Doing Fieldwork in the Global South” on 9 November 2017, 2:00-4:00 pm at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto. This is especially relevant to students who are interested in undertaking field research in Asia. Dr. Gwenn Pulliat, UCRSEA Postdoctoral Fellow, organized the event and will include UCRSEA-funded students who carried out their research in partner countries in Southeast Asia.



Doing fieldwork in the Global South

November 9, 2017
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Room: 208N —
North House

Munk School of Global Affairs —
University of Toronto
1 Devonshire Place
Toronto, ON M5S 3K7

This event is presented as part of the Ontario Graduate Scholarship Partnership to Southeast Asia (OGSPA) at the Asian Institute of Global Studies (AIGS) at the University of Toronto and is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

Guests: Gwenn PULLIAT (UCRSEA postdoctoral fellow, University of Toronto)
Farzana ASIF (PhD candidate - International Development, University of Toronto)
Angelica DE JESUS (PhD candidate - Planning, University of Toronto)
Esther LAMBERT (PhD candidate - Planning, University of Toronto)
Nicola DOS SANTOS (Master of Social Work candidate, University of Toronto)

Fieldwork, a central element of research, is also a challenging practice. It is a process that is shaped by the researcher's positionality, the research site, the research questions, and the research methods. This seminar will explore the challenges of fieldwork in the Global South, and how these challenges can be addressed through a collaborative approach. The seminar will include a presentation by Gwenn Pulliat, UCRSEA Postdoctoral Fellow, on her research in Southeast Asia, and a panel discussion with other UCRSEA-funded students who have conducted fieldwork in partner countries. The seminar will be held in English, and a translation service will be available for those who need it.

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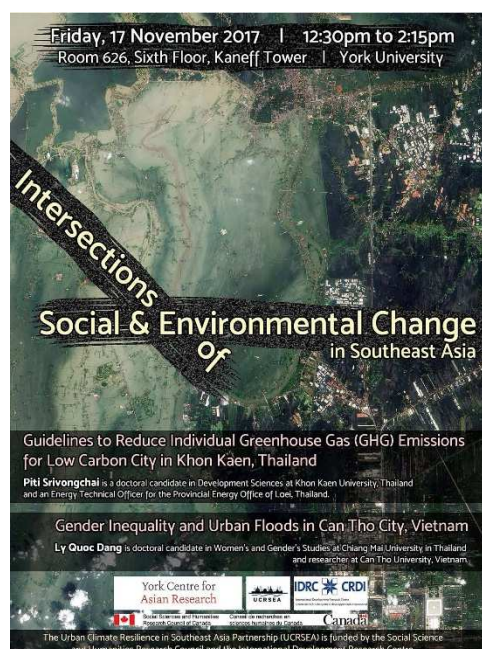


Investing in government science advice for better policymaking Applications Deadline: 15 November 2017

A new project funded by IDRC and led by the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) seeks to facilitate the flow of information between academia and governments to ensure that sound scientific evidence informs policymaking. As part of this grant, applications are now open for **six professional development and research grants** that will support early to mid-career researchers or policy practitioners in low and middle income countries.

Each grant recipient will manage and conduct a project of their choice on the priority research theme of the **role of scientific evidence and advice in support of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Grant recipients will become INGSA Research Associates and receive up to €15,000 each to complete their project. Additional support will be made available for applicants to travel to the INGSA conference in Japan in September 2018.

For information on eligibility and to apply, visit the [INGSA's Research Associate Grant Program page](#).



Intersections of Social and Environmental Change in Southeast Asia, 17 November 2017

Guidelines to Reduce Individual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions for Low Carbon City in Khon Kaen, Thailand – Piti Srivongchai, UCRSEA Graduate Fellow

The objective of this qualitative study was to investigate what changes in individual human lifestyle are necessary to contribute to the reduction of GHG through the Low Carbon City initiative in the Khon Kaen municipality, Thailand. Piti examined seven conditions of individual behaviour that impact GHG reduction: character, knowledge, attitude, motivation, persuasion, role models and equipment support. Based on his findings, he suggests guidelines for improving individual contributions through Low Carbon City to reduce GHG. Piti is a doctoral candidate in Development Sciences at Khon Kaen University, Thailand and an Energy Technical Officer for the Provincial Energy Office of Loei, Thailand.

Gender Inequality and Urban Floods in Can Tho City, Vietnam – Ly Quoc Dang, UCRSEA Graduate Fellow

Using a feminist political ecology framework, Dang examines gendered relationships in terms of rights, roles and responsibilities in families and communities affected by floods in Can Tho, Vietnam. Based on fieldwork, he also seeks to understand the impact of women's involvement in flood management and environmental and climate justice. Dang is a doctoral candidate in Women's and Gender's Studies at Chiang Mai University in Thailand and a researcher at Can Tho University of Vietnam.

All are welcome. Please RSVP to ycar@yorku.ca.



Proposals are currently being accepted for presentations, panels, workshops, posters, Reality Checks, Workshops, trainings, co-events and other formats.

New extended deadline for proposal submission: 17 November 2017

For questions on the Resilient Cities 2018 program, please email resilient.cities@iclei.org.

For more information, contact:

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We want to hear from you!

If you, or your organization, have any upcoming events, news, or announcements you'd like us to include in the next issue of the UCRSEA Partnership Update, please contact us at ucrsea@gmail.com.



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