

UCRSEA PARTNERSHIP UPDATE, JANUARY-MAY 2019

UCRSEA Partnership Project;

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IDRC Grant/ Subvention du CRDI: 107776-001-Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia Partnership

Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia Partnership PARTNERSHIP UPDATE January – May 2019 (Final Issue)

Photo courtesy of Nguyen Thanh Tu.

PROJECT NEWS

UCRSEA Holds Final Assembly and Policy Forum, Bangkok, Thailand



On May 21-23, the UCRSEA Partnership Project concluded its activities with a Final Annual Workshop and a Policy Forum bringing together UCRSEA partners, boundary partners, and key international and local actors in practice and policy. The meetings aimed to help them better understand the complexities of urban climate resilience and their roles in addressing key challenges.

The Policy Forum tackled the theme, “What would it take for cities in Southeast Asia to become more sustainable, inclusive, equitable and resilient?”, with dialogue grounded in recent evidence from cases around the region. It was expected to generate new knowledge about the realities of urban climate resilience, focusing specifically on urban governance challenges, roles of civil society and opportunities to address these problems.

The significance of cities is increasingly recognized in global agendas. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) explicitly acknowledge the important role that cities play in the pursuit of sustainable development through Goal 11, which aims to “make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. The 2015 Paris Agreement also highlights the key role of local governments in the global response to climate change. However, many cities face enormous constraints and lack the necessary capabilities to effectively deal with the issue of climate

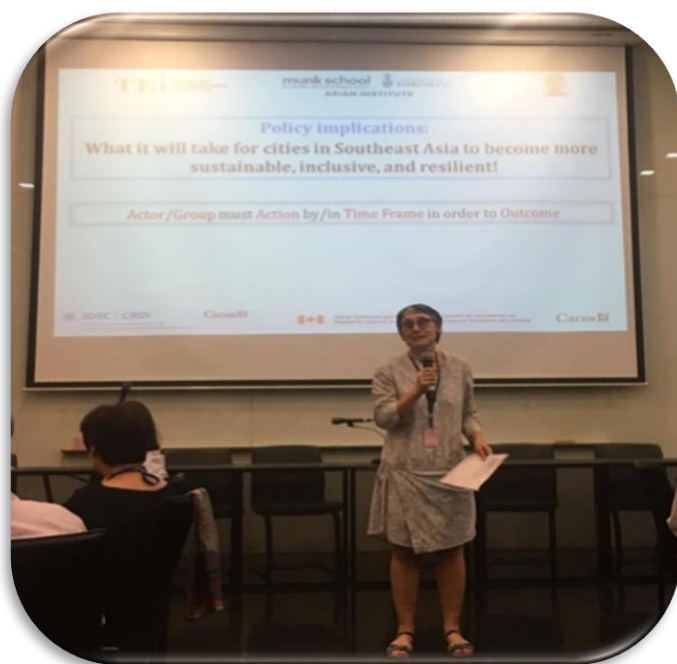
change. There is an urgent need to rethink urban policy and practice in the light of regional projections and the gaps that clearly exist between current urban development patterns and what is required to realise a sustainable, inclusive, equitable and resilient urban future.

Southeast Asia is going through rapid urbanisation. By 2030, the urban population is projected to increase by 100 million, to 373 million people. Although urbanisation is dominated by large primate cities and mega-cities, secondary cities are growing at a much a faster rate. These trends have important implications for climate change and sustainable development. The fast pace of urbanisation means that small- and medium-sized cities are unable to keep up with the provision and maintenance of critical urban systems and infrastructure; thus lowering cities' coping thresholds to changing weather patterns.

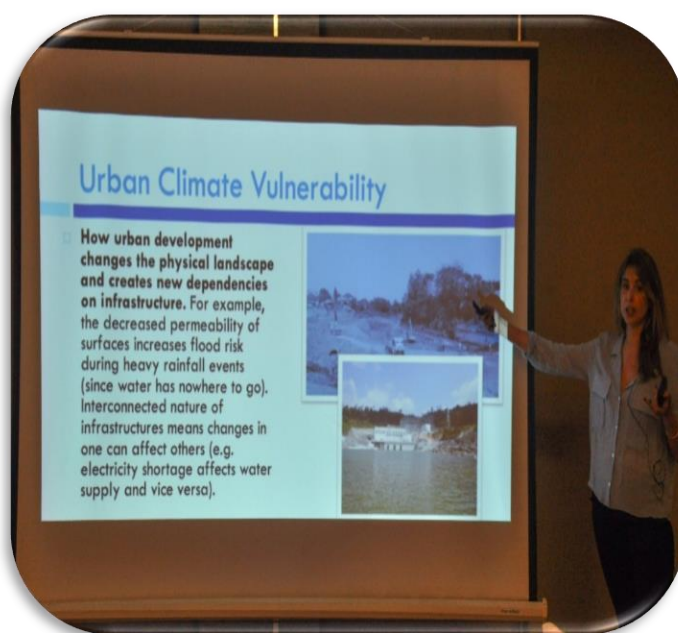
The interactions between urbanisation and climate change create new risks and patterns of vulnerability that will require more adaptive approaches than the traditional emergency relief methods such as 'predict and respond'. New forms of governance that highlight the importance of citizen rights and accountable institutions, and a shift towards more learning oriented, Flexible and adaptive policy processes are needed to address the risks and uncertainties of climate change.

The Policy Forum was featured in [The Bangkok Post](#), [NewsNBT Thailand](#) and [CH7News](#).

Scenes from the Final Assembly and Policy Forum (Photos courtesy of Nguyen Thanh Tu.)



Prof. Daniere addressing participants.



Rebecca McMillan, UCRSEA Research Assistant, making a presentation.



One of the working sessions during the meeting.



Current and past UCRSEA Postdoc Fellows, PhD and graduate students.



Question & answer period.



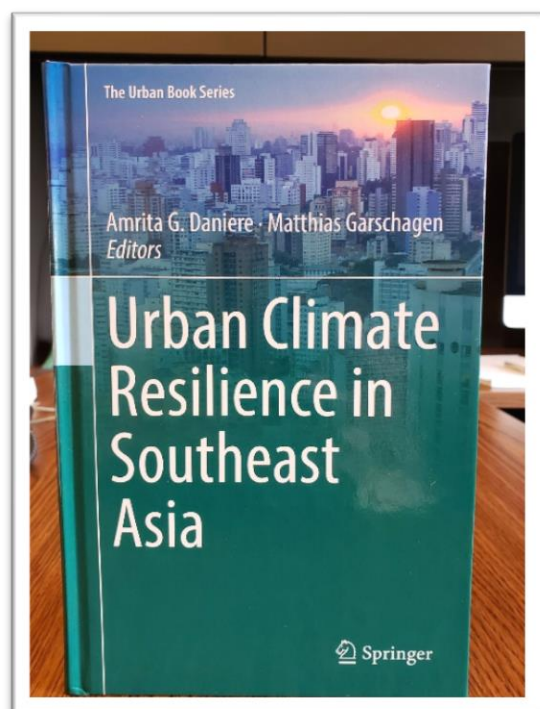
UCRSEA Partners & Collaborators



Participants working in groups.

UCRSEA SPREADS THE WORD

UCRSEA Book Now Available



UCRSEA is pleased to announce that its book, ***Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia***, is finally out of press. Co-edited by Prof. Amrita Daniere and Matthias Garschagen, it features the work of young scholars and graduate students who have been involved in the Partnership and whose research focused on the relationship between urban poverty, vulnerability and climate change adaptation in rapidly urbanizing areas in Southeast Asia. It also highlights both the vulnerabilities to climate change faced by residents in these areas as well as ways to enhance their resilience and hence, economic and social well-being. The goal is to share the knowledge we have all gained from their combined research to both address emerging debates but also offer key recommendations that can help urban residents to achieve long-term resilience. All the work focuses on the dynamics of power relations and looks to increase the role and voice of the traditionally marginalized in shaping their future urban spaces.

The book, available in hard cover and digital form as an e-book, can be purchased from Springer Nature at <https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319989679>.

New UCRSEA Documentary Videos on You Tube

The UCRSEA Partnership Project has recently released documentary videos highlighting its five-year work in eight Southeast Asian cities funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the International Development Research Centre Canada. The videos focus on the project's efforts to build bodies of knowledge and effect much needed changes in skills, access and political will. It features engagements with the public and private sectors as well as communities. It also emphasizes its important contributions to the understanding of what

it takes for Southeast Asian cities to become more sustainable, inclusive, equitable and resilient in the face of climate change. It can be viewed in You Tube: https://youtu.be/uA8KkZpxW-8?list=PLbRtQ6H0laJlX4nCw0_n-7s6Kz1SauVjR or by clicking the photo.



Partners and collaborators participated in the production. Living Films, based in Thailand, was commissioned to do the filming.

UCRSEA STAFF NEWS

2019 UCRSEA Postdoctoral Fellow Katherine Laycock



Katherine Laycock of the University of Waterloo joined the UCRSEA Partnership on January 7th as Postdoctoral Fellow. She holds a BA in Political Science and Global Studies from Wilfrid Laurier

University and a MSc in Capacity Development & Extension with International Development Studies collaboration from the University of Guelph where she investigated community cohesion, vulnerability, and capacity-building following natural disaster. She is a recipient of a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship and an IDRC Doctoral Award for her PhD research which examined the efficacy of non-verbal communication and social capital for climate change experts in Metro Manila,

Philippines. She is concurrently working on an assessment of gender dynamics in mentorship project through a Waterloo Equity Grant and a place-making for immigrant women project through Focus for Ethnic Women, a community-based organization where she contributes as executive board member.

For her post-doctoral research, she will explore how community needs, particularly those of recent rural-urban migrants, influence public perceptions of imagery. Through this research, she intends to use imagery communication to design more inclusionary practices for local resilience planning in Cambodia.

Farewell to Yanjun

Dr. Yanjun Cai, Postdoctoral Fellow, completed her fellowship with UCRSEA at the end of March. Yanjun was instrumental in organizing the project's first webinar and symposium and the 2018 Curriculum Development Training Workshop in Chiang Mai, Thailand, as well as organizing conference panel sessions. We wish her the best in her next endeavor!

NEW UCRSEA PUBLICATIONS

New journal article by UCRSEA researchers

Prof. Melissa Marschke of the University of Ottawa, a UCRSEA Collaborator, and Jason Horlings, her student and a UCRSEA research funding recipient, have published a new article, “Fishing, farming and factories: adaptive development in coastal Cambodia”, in the journal *Climate and Development*. It is available at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17565529.2019.1645637?scroll=top&needAccess=true>.

The objective of their paper is to determine if the emergence of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) influences adaptive development in coastal Cambodia. Among their findings are, “from a systems perspective, that development capacities are being strengthened with SEZ employment as many employees experience an increased, predictable income, even as climate-specific capacities are weak, beyond the changes to climate exposure that people experience through migration. However, even as industrial and migration systems develop, the lack of climate-specific capacities in the urban system is concerning: water supply, land-use planning, and urban governance take little account of climate change adaptation, which may undermine longer-term development in this region.”



Jason Horlings during his field research in Koh Kong.

Southeast Asia to suffer intense, more frequent drought without government action: UN and Asean report

Dr. Danny Marks, former UCRSEA Postdoc Fellow and currently Assistant Prof at the City University of Hong Kong, was quoted in an article on drought in Southeast Asia which appeared in the South China Morning Post. It is available at <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3007530/southeast-asia-suffer-intense-more-frequent-drought>

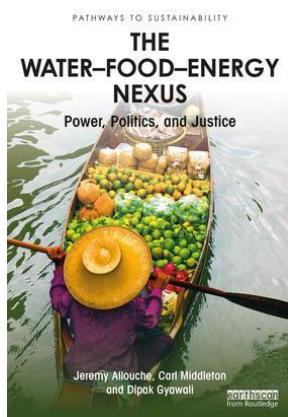
RECOMMENDED READINGS

Put equity first in climate adaptation

By Mark Pelling and Matthias Garschagen
Nature, International Journal of Science

“Focusing on the bottom few per cent, not averages, is the best way to tackle poverty. Adaptation must meet the needs of the poorest directly, putting them at the centre of decision-making with funding. The case for equitable adaptation is clear: it is a moral duty, and it improves economic productivity, social cohesion, health and peace.”

The full article is found in <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-01497-9>.



The Water-Food-Energy Nexus

By Jeremy Allouche, Carl Middleton and Dipak Gyawali

The Water-Food-Energy Nexus: Power, Politics and Justice lays out the managerial-technical definitions of the nexus and challenges these conceptions by bringing to the forefront the politics of the nexus, around two key dimensions – a dynamic understanding of water-food-energy systems, and a normative positioning around nexus debates, in particular around social justice. The authors argue that a shift in nexus governance is required towards approaches where limits to control are acknowledged, and more reflexive/plural strategies adopted.

This book will be of interest to academic researchers, policy makers, and practitioners in the fields of international development studies, environmental politics, and science and technology studies, as well as international relations. It is available at <https://www.routledge.com/The-WaterFoodEnergy-Nexus-Power-Politics-and-Justice-1st-Edition/Allouche-Middleton-Gyawali/p/book/9780415332835>.

Evicting Slums, 'Building Back Better': Resiliency Revanchism and Disaster Risk Management in Manila

By Kenneth Cardenas (York University) and Maria Khristine Alvarez (University College London)

International Journal of Urban and Regional Research

The article examines how the politics of managing global catastrophic risks plays out in Manila, a stereotypically 'vulnerable' megacity in the global South. They introduce the concept of resiliency revanchism: a 'politics of revenge' predicated on the currency of climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, and 'resiliency', animated by historically entrenched prejudicial attitudes toward urban underclasses, and enabled by the selective interpretation, circulation and use of expertise. The article, published as part of a symposium issue on the politics of flooding in Asian mega-urban regions, is available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-2427.12757>

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