

**“SOCIAL AND SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCES IN THE ASEAN COMMUNITY:
A Regional Research Symposium and Academic Policy Dialogue**

(19-21 August 2015)

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, THAILAND

CALL FOR PAPERS

(Extended Deadline for ABSTRACTS 15 June 2015)

Hosted/Sponsored by Chulalongkorn University:

- ASEAN Studies Center;
- Center for Peace & Conflict Studies;
- Chula Global Network (CGN)
- School of Agricultural Resources (CUSAR);
- Social Research Institute (CUSRI)

In Partnership with:

- ASEAN University Network (AUN) Secretariat, Bangkok,
- National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)
- SIANI Higher Education for Sustainable Agriculture (HESA) in Southeast Asia Expert Group (a Chula-based, Swedish Sida supported initiative supported by the Stockholm Environment Institute/SEI, Asia Regional Office, Bangkok)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Bangkok, Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education

OVERVIEW

Chulalongkorn University (CU) in partnership with the ASEAN University Network (AUN), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Bangkok, Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, and others will host a small symposium in 19-21 August 2015 to better document and understand the state of social sciences and sustainable development learning, teaching and research among Southeast Asian universities, colleges, and research organizations. This conference will facilitate ASEAN representatives, as well as partners outside the region, in research and knowledge exchange. Travel grants will be provided for scholars from the ASEAN region only¹ with accepted abstracts to present full papers. Selected papers in English will be published as a good quality academic book (tentatively by Springer), or as a Special Issue of the *International Social Science Journal* (UNESCO, Paris), with all submissions subject to peer-review. Symposium proceedings with policy recommendations will be published in a separate report by UNESCO, AUN, and CU then forwarded to the ASEAN Secretariat in advance of an ASEAN Summit of Ministers responsible for Social Sciences November 2015 in Malaysia. One planned legacy of this initiative is establishment of an ASEAN Social and Sustainability Sciences Network.

¹ The ASEAN region includes 10 member states: Brunei; Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Timor Leste is not an ASEAN member but an aspirant and considered of Southeast Asia. Travel grant support will be considered for scholars from any Southeast Asian country

OBJECTIVES & SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

This research and policy dialogue initiative has three broad and interrelated objectives.

First, it aims to begin documenting and systematically assessing the state of social and sustainability sciences in Southeast Asia, principally among tertiary institutions as well as other national or regional research organizations. It will facilitate national case studies and regional thematic or cross disciplinary reviews.

Second, it will analyze what social and sustainability sciences now do, or how they can in the future, contribute to better analyzing social, global and environmental change processes and policies affecting Southeast Asia and its overlapping Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) nationally or locally among its diverse peoples, communities, ecosystems, health, economies, etc. On a related practical concern it will explore how policy-relevant social science research can help facilitate the ecologically, socially and economically sustainable development of the ASEAN Community set to launch in 2015.

Third, it will explore new methods, tools, resources, networking approaches and policy options to improve teaching, learning and research especially among public sector universities, colleges, and institutes while strengthening institutional capacities and curricula for social and sustainability sciences in Southeast Asia and the GMS.

From 75 to 90 people from Southeast Asia and the GMS with some international or "ASEAN Plus" partners from universities, regional organizations, international agencies, donor organizations, and ASEAN Studies institutes are expected to participate in an academic symposium 19-21 August 2015 at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Some 15-20 full papers will be presented based on approved abstracts (assessed by academic program committee) from open call. Papers will variously review social sciences institutions, programs, curricula and capacities in each Southeast Asian country, as well as thematic, theoretical or regional studies on social sciences, sustainability and related policy issues in ASEAN. Selected papers will be adapted and submitted for peer-review as chapters in a published academic book or "Special Issue" of UNESCO's *International Social Science Journal* with analyses of roles that current social and sustainability sciences play in government research, policy making and program design.

Aside from just academic papers, a meeting summary will be published separately as a symposium report by UNESCO, AUN and CU. This report will be used to engage the ASEAN Secretariat in advance of an ASEAN Summit of Ministers responsible for Social Sciences planned for November 2015 in Malaysia. The report will include policy and program recommendations for ASEAN university leaders, governments and donors. A new ASEAN Social and Sustainability Sciences Network under AUN auspices is expected to be launched after our August 2015 symposium. Ongoing dialogue and research in cooperation in 2016 and beyond will continue under UNESCO's work program with other partners.

CONTEXTS FOR THIS ASEAN RESEARCH & POLICY DIALOGUE

The Southeast Asian region has a growing population of over 600 million people, at least 6,500 higher education institutions, and some 12 million post-secondary students. The

“Southeast Asian Higher Education Area” (SEAHEA) idea is also growing, inspired from Europe and elsewhere (Yavaprabhas, 2008). The overlapping or neighbouring Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) with its own distinct eco-geographical qualities, sustainability concerns and sub-regional integration challenges, has almost half the population of ASEAN including 5 of its 10 countries, with some 260 to 326 million people alone (Lebel, et. al, 2014, p. 2).² But even as ASEAN and Mekong socioeconomic integration proceeds we still know little detail about the general state or scope of social or sustainability sciences across ASEAN especially, the links between them, their priority among the region’s universities, their capacities or needs, and what they do or can contribute to our basic understanding of social and environmental change. We also do not know well how social or sustainability sciences now contribute (or could) to resolving many complex, urgent and often interlinked social, economic, agricultural and environmental problems, or how they now inform national policies or analyses with appropriate program responses of the region.

The degree or extent of educational integration feasible in a new SEAHEA also remains to be seen, due to inequalities (within/among poorer member states or universities) and the region’s vast political, social, cultural, ethnic, religious, linguistic, geographic and economic diversity (ASEAN Secretariat, February 2014). But social and sustainability sciences can help document and explain inequalities, sustainable development issues, and other challenges facing the ASEAN region and its integration process. Many social or sustainability sciences disciplines already study agricultural development, economic development, democracy, education, energy, ethics, ethnic and religious conflict, food systems, fisheries, forestry, globalization and regionalization, human rights, labour and migration, land-use; natural resource management, peace and human security, poverty, social movements and civil unrest, water and more. Yet much of this work is still discipline-based and could benefit from broader, integrative approaches to social and sustainability sciences.

New, more focused policy-relevant social science and sustainability research could also help government bureaucrats, senior officials and political leaders make more informed decisions and policies with better designed programs about such tissues and other aspects of the new AC according to various disciplinary expertise and interdisciplinary cooperation. It can help both analyze and facilitate the ecologically and socially sustainable development of the new ASEAN Community (AC) set to launch in 2015. Our research symposium and policy dialogue will facilitate this.

Chulalongkorn University and UNESCO together already initiated some work on related issues in 2008 in collaboration with the Thai National Commission for UNESCO, Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme and others. This initiative builds on, and will update, many recommendations made at their 2008 workshop and report (Thai National Commission for UNESCO and CUSRI, 20-22 August 2008). Finally, the last

² The larger 326 million population figure is from Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates of the GMS region including Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam which are also ASEAN countries. But it also includes the Mekong eco-geographical area of the People's Republic of China (PRC), mainly Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. China is a politically and economically powerful influence in ASEAN as whole, but especially in the GMS countries.

two *World Social Sciences Reports* did not include regional data or analyses of Southeast Asia (ISSC and UNESCO, 2013; UNESCO, 2010). And it is unclear what capacities Asian social science associations and research bodies have generally, or for contributing to sustainability research or policy dialogue particularly (Beaton, 2010; 2013; and Lieten, Summer 2014). So our research symposium and policy dialogue aims to better document and analyze the state of Social Sciences in ASEAN, Southeast Asia as a whole, and its overlapping GMS Region, discussing their contribution to regional integration and sustainability, as well for policy relevance and practical value as “useable knowledge.”

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS & PAPERS

Chulalongkorn University will work closely with UNESCO Bangkok, the AUN and other partners to identify and recruit recognized academic experts. This open call also invites abstracts (maximum 500 words) and full papers of approximately 5000-7000 words that (subject to peer review and revision) will be result in book chapters and/or appear in published proceedings. The extended **DEADLINE for ABSTRACTS is 15 June 2015.** Paper submission guidelines will be provided for proceedings and peer review upon accepted abstracts. Abstract submissions should be made on the UNESCO Bangkok (RUSHSAP) web site following format and instructions there (www.unescobkk.org/en/rushsap)

TRAVEL GRANTS will be provided for scholars from Southeast Asia or the ASEAN region with accepted abstracts to present **FULL PAPERS ONLY** unless other arrangements are made. Others outside the region may submit abstracts or present papers but if accepted must self-finance their own travel. Academic papers may variously explore:

1. National reviews on the state of both social and sustainability sciences (curricula, funding, programs, institutions, research capacities, theoretical debates, faculty types, student numbers, published research, etc.), either together or separately in each Southeast Asian country.
2. Thematic reviews (at national or regional level) of specific social or and sustainability science subjects, disciplines or cross/transdisciplinary fields.
3. Theoretical, policy and empirical issues about social sciences as they relate to broader ecological, social and economic sustainability challenges for Southeast Asia as a whole, and the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) in ASEAN particularly, including but not limited to ASEAN priorities, policies, committees, institutional challenges, programs, curricula, etc.
4. Social and sustainability science contributions to understanding the ASEAN integration process, particularly perspectives on one of more of the AC’s three “pillars”: i.e. the ASEAN security community (ASC); the ASEAN economic community (AEC); and the ASEAN socio-cultural community (ASCC). while assessing their model(s) and operational programs for regional, national, institutional, local and rural development and environmental sustainability or protection;
5. Social and sustainability science analyses of “ASEAN Plus” partnerships, other external relations and donor agendas with their influences on the ASEAN Community (and the GMS in ASEAN), Southeast Asian Universities and regional scholarship.

6. Social and sustainability science analyses of civil society critiques or alternatives to the AEC, ASC and ASCC visions, or key actors and partners.
7. Policy-relevant analyses of how social or sustainability science research is (or could be) used by government and others. For example, do social scientists already have established connections to ensure there are clear impact pathways so that good social science research can better inform policy? How do governments in Southeast Asian currently seek information from social science institutions or scholars, and of what types, for what purposes? How can scholarship build or strengthen relationships?
8. Practical considerations about institutional reform and regional cooperation including methods, tools, resources and networking for strengthening social and sustainability sciences and complementary disciplines, particularly sustainable development teaching, learning and research capacities among Southeast Asian universities, colleges, and research institutes and their partners.

TIMELINE

This symposium will engage social and sustainability scientists, allied disciplinary experts, and related institutions across the ASEAN region. A timely publication following the event should help facilitate critical analysis and policy dialogue for the pending AC in 2015, and be a practical contribution to an emerging SEAHEA. The projected timeline is as follows.

KEY DATES	KEY ACTIVITIES/OUTPUTS
March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website Posting with open “Call for Papers” • Email Circulation of First Call For Papers – with wider outreach/invitations to known Social Science networks or experts in or about the ASEAN or Southeast Asia region
15 June 2015 (revised/extended deadline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>ABSTRACTS</u> due (From Open Call or Invited Experts)
22 June 2015 (revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of Accepted Abstracts • Authors Begin Drafting papers
29 June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit complete book proposal with abstracts to publisher (<u>Springer has already agreed to publish subject to peer-review</u>) or confirm special issue of <i>The International Social Science Journal (ISSJ)</i> depending on scope, numbers and submission types from open call and expert papers

17 July 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FULL PAPERS (1st Draft) Due from accepted abstracts
24 July 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback to Authors on papers (and viability of conversion to book chapters for Springer or as a journal article in ISSJ for peer review) • Notification of approved Travel Grants based on quality of 1st Draft Full paper submission
July-August 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistical preparations for Symposium • Document Preparation • Preparation of Abstracts or Proceedings before Symposium (with accepted full papers)
<p>18 August 2015</p> <p>19-21 August 2015</p> <p>21 August 2015 (afternoon)</p>	<p><i>Higher Education for Sustainable Agriculture (HESA) and Food Security in ASEAN (Pre-Conference SIANI Expert Group meeting)</i></p> <p>ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM Chula, Bangkok (ASEAN Social and Sustainability Sciences)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations with Proceedings based on FULL 1st DRAFT Papers • Workshop on Legacy - Establishment of AUN Social and Sustainability Sciences Network
September 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisions of Papers for Full Book Proposal Submission (Springer) or Special Issue (IJSS) for Peer Review Publication • Drafting and Technical Editing of Symposium Report and Proceedings
October-November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symposium Report with edited proceedings published by UNESCO (with partners) • Presentation of Preliminary Report to ASEAN Social Science Ministers and Senior officials meeting (November 2015/Kuala Lumpur)
November-December 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue editing and reviews of peer reviewed book or journal special issue until manuscript is complete/in print

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