

Public Lecture at Chulalongkorn University

Master of Arts in International Development Studies

By: Mattijs Smits, MSc

Title:

Physical, socio-economical and political challenges of rural electrification: the case of pico-hydropower as neglected source of electricity for people in off-grid areas in Laos.

Date:

November 28, 2008, 1-4pm

Location:

Room 207, Political Science Building #2, Chulalongkorn University

Biography:

Mattijs Smits is currently working as a project coordinator at the Lao Institute for Renewable Energy in Vientiane. His interests are in the field of sustainable energy technology development in developing countries. His undergraduate background was in energy and resources, which combined natural and social sciences. He continued his studies at Wageningen University in the Masters Program on the Management of Agro-ecological Knowledge and Social Change. This program provides people with a technical background with a development and social sciences perspective. During this program, Mattijs spent eight months at the Lao Institute for Renewable Energy for his internship and thesis research on small-scale rural electrification technologies and their socio-economic impact. His MSc-thesis on the Political Ecology of pico-hydropower was awarded with a 9 out of 10 and a thesis prize. He is currently back in Laos to work on a program funded by ETC Energy.