

M.A. in International Development Studies (MAIDS)



Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University

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Mr. Ronald Butiong, Programs Economist for the Asian Development Bank (ADB), receives a gift from student Mike Paller on behalf of MAIDS programme during a public lecture on December 4th, 2006.

Interview with Guest Lecturer Ronald Butiong By Brennen Jenkins, MAIDS Fundraising Officer

In line with a new vision for the region, economic trade corridors were established in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) to increase connectivity, encourage competitiveness and establish a greater sense of community among individual state members. Mr. Ronald Butiong was invited to give a public lecture at MAIDS to discuss the challenges and research agenda of the North-South Economic Corridor (NSEC) in the GMS. It was also intended to help students brainstorm ideas for their thesis using the interdependent nature of this large-scale development project as a case-study.

What are the implications of the increasing movement of people, goods and resources across international borders? Evidence points to various health, labour, educational and environmental concerns such as the struggle to manage the spread of disease, standardize migration practices, enhance capacity and skills development as well as the need for better resource management. Therefore, the following interview with Mr. Butiong is an attempt to understand how the NSEC plans to tackle these difficult social issues in a climate of GMS trade liberalization.

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Master of Arts Programme
in
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(MAIDS)

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1. Who benefits from NSEC? How can we ensure the benefits are shared among and within individual states? Will the future development of NSEC prevent or amplify unequal development in the region?

Generally, the benefits from the development of the NSEC will take the form of lower transportation costs, faster and more reliable transport services, and improved livelihood for the populations within the vicinity of the road corridor.

One of the objectives of developing this corridor is reducing income disparities among the countries in the region. Providing land-locked regions sea access and establishing linkages with rapidly growing economies serve to enhance and accelerate the development process. The corridor offers poorer areas in the NSEC countries greater economic opportunities.

In this regard, a country like Lao PDR can benefit from the NSEC. The corridor can also help narrow the gap between Lao PDR and other regional economies. In order to achieve this, the country needs to strengthen its role as a land link at the center of the GMS. Regional trade is becoming more important for Lao PDR with the increasing overall share of total exports and imports with neighboring countries, such as Thailand.

2. What knowledge/skills are needed for NSEC to flourish? How are individual countries expected to meet these demands?

The development of human resources and skills competencies is a distinct flagship program under the GMS Program and pursued under the auspices of the Working Group on Human Resource Development (WGHRD). WGHRD has identified emerging human resource issues in health, education, and labor as they relate to cross-border activities in the sub-region and is looking closely at cross-cutting and transboundary social concerns associated with sub-regional cooperation.

With respect to the NSEC, a detailed assessment of the knowledge and skills requirements is still to be prepared. Given the remoteness of the NSEC areas, it is expected that human capital constraints—including high levels of rural poverty, low skills base, and other socioeconomic constraints—will have to be addressed by all NSEC countries as part of the holistic approach to economic corridor development. The public and private sectors in the GMS are putting in resources to help identify a network of institutions that will, among other things, look carefully into this issue.

3. What role does regional cooperation and connectivity play in reducing poverty?

Regional cooperation is a potent tool for poverty reduction. It complements national development efforts and overcomes national constraints. By fostering and enhancing connectivity, it enables countries to enlarge markets, generate economies of scale, and realize advantages offered by cross-border complementarities. Regional cooperation brings benefits that would not otherwise be realized if individual countries acted on their own.

High dependence on subsistence agriculture is a major reason for poverty in project areas. The problem most cited by villagers as preventing economic growth is lack of all-weather roads by which to market their produce. Areas that have potential for developing cash crops cannot take advantage of such income-enhancing opportunities due to lack of reliable transportation. Improved access to markets is expected to facilitate the transformation from subsistence to commercial agriculture.

Off-farm employment opportunities in the services sector such as restaurants and transport services, as well as other income diversification potential will reduce vulnerability to external shocks, especially natural disasters. In addition, improved access and reduced transportation costs have two major impacts on food expenditure. First, they reduce vulnerability to food shortages and rice deficiencies by the increased inflow of food items. Second, they reduce consumer prices and thus expenditure on food items, not only for the poor but for all. Further, preliminary analysis indicates that the ability of development and assistance programs to target both poor households and poor villages is largely governed by access to all-weather roads. Thus, both the quantity of development programs and the cost-effectiveness of these programs can be expected to improve. Improved connectivity through regional cooperation is a necessary condition, however, not a sufficient one in effecting significant poverty reduction and sustainable, broad-based growth. It has to be accompanied by mechanisms and safeguards to ensure that the negative externalities are mitigated or prevented.

'Navigating myself through the world of development'

By Jill Lawler, 2005 MAIDS Alumni

My experiences and interests have shaped my journey towards pursuing a Masters in International Development Studies at Chulalongkorn University. For an Oklahoman studying in Thailand, one could argue that my journey has strayed far from the beaten path. Yet, for someone interested in the experience and the process of human growth and development, this journey has been far from wayward. And as I have learned, straying often leads to forming new beaten paths that can lead to rewarding opportunities.

I began as an eager International Relations student in the U.S. where I had previous experience working on the government side of international relations. A stint as an intern with the U.S. Mission to the UN exposed me to the policy side of development, while fieldwork in Ghana provided real life context to the more esoteric policy discussions. Working on sustainable development issues in Ghana demonstrated the importance of both approaches for it is from the collision of ideas – whether formed in the halls of government or in the field – where a new understanding emerges. I pursued a Masters with MAIDS for the primary reason that it blended applied aspects of development work with more theoretical discussions of the business of development. Keeping this balance proved fundamental to my experiences as a student.

In linking my experiences, one thread emerges. I have an overwhelming interest to work in environments that emphasize the return of development practice to the people for which it is intended, and to ensure that community development aspirations form an important basis for broader development agendas and policy dialogues. Communities in the Asia-Pacific region face a commonality of issues and concerns that are best addressed through cooperation of all stakeholders across sectors. Despite this, they are often left out of the decision-making process. One common issue is water, and more specifically, access to the appropriate amounts of clean water to lead healthy and dignified lives, as well as sustain important ecological functions. It is well known that much of the world is now facing key water governance challenges, yet the attention to how these issues converge at the local level, and the need to include local voices in the arena of development planning, is perhaps just emerging. This is especially true in trans-boundary development planning, where community voices are most needed to truly understand the stakes involved. With water as a starting point, I focused my MAIDS experience on addressing issues of water governance– or the process of deciding how, and for whom, water resources are used and allocated. Throughout my year, I engaged in conferences and workshops exploring water-related issues at the local, national, and regional level, which eventually led to my Master's research analyzing ways in which institutions are formed and decisions are made between states over the Mekong River's shared water resources.

In a way, my internship is the destination of all the threads and themes that have guided my journey thus far, of which the MAIDS program has played an influential role. This end destination reconfirms that it is good to stray off the beaten path and to be an inventor of experiences where new paths can emerge. In the end, the process is as much about your own development as it is about others.

These experiences led to an internship with the United Nations Development Program's Environment and Energy division, where I am currently working on an initiative to facilitate peer-to-peer collaborations with other communities within the Mekong region, focusing specifically on trans-boundary water governance. This initiative brings the people back into the governance process. In a way, my internship is the destination of all the threads and themes that have guided my journey thus far, of which the MAIDS program has played an influential role. This end destination reconfirms that it is good to stray off the beaten path and to be an inventor of experiences where new paths can emerge. In the end, the process is as much about your own development as it is about others.

Congratulations 2005-2006 graduates

In September 2006, the following 12 MAIDS students successfully defended their thesis and completed their Master of Arts degree:

MS JILL LAWLER
MR JOHN OSOLNICK
MR MARTIN J. O'BRIEN-KELLY
MRS NWE MAR ROHDER
MS PAMELA ELISE SCIANTARELLI
MR MYINT ZAW
MR ROBERT VAUGHAN
MS SANNA PAULINA SALMELA
MS SUPAPOHN KANWERAYOTHIN
MS YUKIKO AIDA
MR PHYO WIN LATT
MR ZEYA THU

The programme's faculty and staff would like to congratulate them all for their hard work, and for finishing their studies within the prescribed one year period.

We hope you keep in touch and we wish you the best of luck with your future professional/academic endeavours!

MAIDS faculty and staff

Ruminating International Migration from the Philippines

Public Lecture by Dr. Maruja M.B. Asis; Lecture Report by Michael Paller

Dr. Maruja M.B. Asis is the Director of Research and Publications at the Scalabrini Migration Center (SMC), a research center devoted to the interdisciplinary study of migration issues in the Asia-Pacific region (www.smc.org.ph). Her major research interest is the study of international migration and social change. She has directed research projects on unauthorized migration, female migration, the impacts of migration on the children and families left-behind in the Philippines, and an assessment of the pre-departure experiences of Filipino migrants. She recently completed a study on the educational, work and life aspirations and migration intentions of young Filipinos.

Upon arrival at Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, Filipinos have a number of options regarding where they need to queue for immigration. Above one line is a prominent sign displaying the letters "OFW," short for Overseas Filipino Workers; this line highlights the extent to which labor migration has permeated Filipino society. Dr. Maruja M.B. Asis, the Director of Research and Publications at the Scalabrini Migration Center in the Philippines, used this airport description as a departure point for her lecture on October 31, 2006, sponsored by the MAIDS program and the Asia Research Center for Migration.

Dr. Asis's lecture, entitled *Migration in the Philippines: Implications to [the] Global Migration Scenario*, provided insight into the labor migration phenomenon as it has affected the world's largest supplier of migrant workers. The lecture began with an overview of migration from the Philippines and examined the various push and pull factors, which have compelled incredible movement from the Southeast Asian island nation. Dr. Asis then moved on to discuss the social impacts of migration, considering both state and non-state initiatives that have sought, with varying degrees of success, to mitigate the negative impacts of migration. Penetrating deeper into the issue, the lecture concluded with a look at the particular impacts that migration has had on Filipino children.

The Philippines sends both men and women into the international workforce, and almost all Filipinos are implicated...Fortunately, some of the remittances are being channeled into wise investments at home; specifically, children of migrants often receive better education, healthcare, and opportunities to get involved in extra curricular activities.

In the 1970s the world experienced the beginning of global migration, and since then, Filipinos have dominated the scene. The Philippines is considered to be one of the greatest success stories in this new era, capturing niches in a number of crucial migrant labor sectors, including nursing, seafaring, and domestic work. The Philippines sends both men and women into the international workforce, and almost all Filipinos are implicated. Remittances to the country topped 12 billion US dollars in 2005 alone, accounting for a substantial part of the Filipino economy. Fortunately, some of the remittances are being channeled into wise investments at home; specifically, children of migrants often receive better education, healthcare, and opportunities to get involved in extra curricular activities.

Pronounced social impacts of migration are felt across the Philippines, some of which are positive and others that are not. Noting the Scalabrini *Hearts Apart* report, Dr. Asis mentioned that children of migrants do have potentially increased life opportunities because of the aforementioned remittances. However, missing out on having one, or sometimes both, parents away can be debilitating.

The economy is obviously not the only facet of Filipino society that is affected by migration. With enormous economic growth comes enormous responsibility. Fortunately, state and non-state initiatives have gone a long way to protect Filipino workers. The state has a well-developed bureaucracy that has been effective in introducing migrant related laws, lobbying at the UN, and initiating programs for pre-departure and reintegration. NGOs and other non-state actors have been effective as well in building extensive migrant networks and building social capital. Nevertheless, questions of alienation and failed development still abound and much work (particularly better enforcement of current policies) is still needed to ensure protection for migrant workers.

2006/2007 MAIDS student Michael Paller attained his B.A. in Politics and Sociology from Brandeis University, USA. Upon graduating he served as the Regional Field Director for the Young Voter Project, an innovative program designed to increase voter turn-out amongst 18-24 year olds in the 2004 United States presidential election. After the election he came to Thailand to conduct research for the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma.





Student Thesis Profile: “Transaction Cost Reduction for Small-scale Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects in Thailand”

By Sanna Salmela

Sanna Salmela was granted a M.Sc. degree in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics in July 2005 from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Prior to that, she completed her B.A. in Environmental and Risk Management in 2004 after studying in the Helsinki School of Business in Finland, and Pittsburgh State University in the USA. During her undergraduate studies, Sanna worked as a Green Office Assistant at the WWF Finland and coordinated the implementation of a Green Office Management System Project for reducing ecological footprints of the office and completed the management plan. Sanna graduated from the MAIDS programme in 2006.

Brief Overview of the Topic

Conducting research on “Transaction Cost Reduction for Small-scale Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects in Thailand” was an interesting process and a great learning opportunity; also because research on CDM is scarce in Thailand. The purpose of my thesis was to provide a framework for clarifying the relevant issues surrounding small-scale CDM projects, and furthermore, to provide answers to the questions raised – mainly the issue of high transaction costs associated with promoting small-scale renewable energy projects for CDM. Therefore, my thesis study attempted to contribute to this scarce body of literature with an emphasis on local benefits, specifically, on an issue which is considered increasingly significant in Thailand, namely, the negative impacts of pig farming on the local environment and the cumulative effects on a regional scale. There seems to be a real need to find additional ways to replicate the existing and planned wastewater and biogas demonstration projects in Thailand. CDM finance could possibly provide part of the solution.

What contributed to writing such a well-done thesis?

For me, the work on my thesis was a step-by-step process in learning and combining knowledge I had acquired earlier. That definitely adds to the strength of my thesis, because the analysis builds on several important intermediate steps, which were crucial for reaching the final analysis, conclusions and recommendations. My strong personal interest on the issue was also crucial due to the time and commitment it required to finish my thesis within the short time allocated. The thesis process itself was quite ‘normal’ with expected ups and downs. I was fortunate to have support coupled with numerous constructive comments, and yet - at the same time - able to keep myself alert by searching for the best output from my own perspective.

Retrospective: Public Lectures at MAIDS Sept. – Dec. 2006

September 19th, 2006

National Interests and Transboundary Water Governance in the Mekong: Engaging civil society?

Philip Hirsch, Australian Mekong
Research Centre

October 3rd, 6th, 9th, 10th, 2006

Special Public Lecture Series on Globalization and Development

Jan Nederveen Pieterse, Professor of
Sociology at University of Illinois Urbana-
Champaign

October 31st, 2006

Migration in the Philippines : Implications to Global Migration Scenario

Dr. Maruja M.B. Asis, Director of
Research and Publications, Scalabrini
Migration Center (SMC), Philippines

November 24th, 2006

Governance of Labour Migration: Scope for Multilateralism

Manolo Abella, Chief Technical Advisor,
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

December 4th, 2006

North-South Economic Corridor: New Regional Challenges and Research Agenda

Ronald Butiong, Programs Economist,
Asian Development Bank (ADB)

December 22nd, 2006

The Interdependencies between Education and Sustainable Development

Sombath Somphone, Director,
Participatory Development Center
(PADETC)

National Interests and Transboundary Water Governance in the Mekong: Engaging Civil Society

Public Seminar by Professor Philip Hirsch

Hosted by MAIDS and the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University

Dr. Philip Hirsch is an Associate Professor at the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney in Australia. He has research interests in natural resource management, rural change and the politics of environment in Southeast Asia, notably Thailand, Laos and Vietnam and the wider Mekong Region. He is involved with collaborative field projects in each country and is the director of the Australian Mekong Resource Centre. His specific interests include river basin management, deforestation, environmental impact of development, rural social differentiation and agrarian change, the role of NGOs in development, resource tenure, changing relations between village and state, and community-based natural resource management. (Biography taken from <http://www.geosci.usyd.edu.au/about/people/staff/hirsch.html>)

Seminar Summary

Professor Hirsch's presentation outlines a report based on a study of governance and national interest in the Mekong River Basin. The study was carried out from an analytical and strategic perspective given the collaboration of the Australian Mekong Resource Centre, at the University of Sydney, and Danida – the Danish government's overseas aid program.

The study considers national interest in two key dimensions. First, it looks at how basin-wide considerations continue to be subsidiary to country-specific considerations within the existing governance framework, and hence at the MRC's lack of "teeth" and regulatory authority. Second, the study looks critically at the representation of a singular national interest in water resource development and in MRC governance arrangements, when it is clear that competing interests in water within countries is really the key governance issue when it comes to "sharing the Mekong". This raises question of societal exclusion or marginalization within existing governance arrangements, and it presents challenges both to civil society and to the mainstream institutions – notably MRC – in forging more inclusive water governance.

This seminar seeks to be constructive in stimulating discussion for ways in which both the mainstream institutions and civil society organizations should work toward a more engaged governance of water in its transboundary context through existing or new institutions.

M-Power (Mekong Program on Water Environment and Resilience)

Research Fellowships

An M-POWER **Research Fellowship** provides an exciting and challenging opportunity for a wide variety of actors to join a multi-country and multi-disciplinary team of researchers. *Fellows will gain a deeper understanding of water governance issues facing the region, conduct original research, and be involved in public events and deliberations.*

Eligibility and Qualifications

The fellowships are open to all nationalities; however, priority will be given to people from **Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam, and China**. Research Fellows will be expected to either have a demonstrated record in research with appropriate academic qualifications (at least a Master's Degree) **OR** significant practical experience in water management and governance with community or state organisations.

Grant awards will range between **USD \$5,000 to a maximum of USD \$15,000**. A minimum of **twelve Research Fellows are expected per year for 2006 - 2008**.

Application Deadline

Research Fellows will be selected twice each year. Deadlines for applications are **1 January and 1 July** each year. Fellowship awards will be announced 1 February and 1 August respectively.

***For more information on M-Power Fellowships, please visit:** <http://www.mpowernet.org/mweb.php?pg=59>

2005 – 2006 Student Thesis Topics

NAME	THESIS TITLE	SUPERVISOR(S)
TZU-CHING KAO	Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Sri Lankan Rural Households' Adoption of Information and Communication Technology	Assoc. Prof. M.R. Prudhisan Jumbala, Dr. Mike Hayes
ARANYA KENGKUNCHORN	An Assessment of the Needs for Higher Education of Karen Refugees: A Case of Nu Poe Camp	Ajarn Pornpimol Trichote
IRAM AKHTAR	Health Care of Rural Women in Bangladesh	Dr. Pavika Sriratanaban
JILL LAWLER	The Interaction Between the Mekong River Commission and China: An Analysis of Hydropolitical Dynamics on Cooperation	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chantana Banpasirichote, Dr. Tariq Banuri
JOHN OSOLNICK	Thai Labour Unions: Identifying Internal Constraints to Effective Representation of Members' Interests in the Workplace and in Society	Assoc. Prof. Lae Dilok-Vidhayarat
MARTIN J. O'BRIEN-KELLY	The Role of Natural Resources in the Khmer Rouge - Royal Government of Cambodia Peace Negotiations and Reintegration Process	Dr. Puangthong Pawakapan
MYINT ZAW	Privately-owned Print Media Outlets in Myanmar: Their Roles and Functions	Asst. Prof. Dr. Niti Pawakapan, Dr. Mike Hayes
NWE MAR ROHDER	Community – Nongovernmental Organisation Interactions in Participatory Mangrove Forest Conservation in Ayarwaddy Delta, Myanmar	Assoc. Prof. M.R. Prudhisan Jumbala
PAMELA ELISE SCIANTARELLI	Resolving the People's War in Nepal: A Discussion of Obstacles to Political Integration	Assoc. Prof. Giles Ungpakorn
PHYO WIN LATT	The Politics of Humanitarian Aid: A Study of the European Union's Humanitarian Assistance Policy and Strategy Toward Myanmar	Dr. Mya Than
ROBERT VAUGHAN	Special Economic Zone Project Assessment in Savanakhet, Lao PDR: An Application of Human Security Framework	Dr. Ora-orn Poocharoen
SANNA PAULINA SALMELA	Transaction Cost Reduction for Small Scale Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects in Thailand	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sitanon Jesdapipat
SUPAPOHN KANWERAYOTHIN	Peace Journalism in Thailand : A Case Study of Issara News Centre of the Thai Journalists Association	Dr. Puangthong Pawakapan
THEERADA SUPHAPHONG	Making of Political Space for Public Policy on Free Trade Agreements: The Case of FTA Watch	Asst. Prof. Dr. Prapas Pintoptang
XUAN MINH LE	State Policy on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs): A Case Study of "Morally Sensitive" Enterprises of (District 1) in Ho Chi Minh City	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Preecha Kuwinpant, Dr. Ora-orn Poocharoen

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YOUVRAJ KAFLE	Nepal's National Policy on Political Conflict Induced Internally Displaced Persons: An Analysis from the Rights Based Approach	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chantana Banpasirichote
YUKIKO AIDA	Reproductive Health Services for Female Laotian Migrant Workers in Mukdahan Province	Prof. Dr. Supang Chantavanich
ZEYA THU	Migrant Children's Access to Education in Thailand: A Case Study of Myanmar Children in Samut Sakhon Province	Assoc. Prof. Surichai Wun'Gaeo, Mr. Jerrold Huguet

Governance of Labour Migration: Scope for Multilateralism

Public Lecture Overview by Brennen Jenkins

Mr. Manolo Abella is currently managing an ILO/EU project on the Governance of Labour Migration in Asia based in Bangkok. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society at the University of Oxford. From 1998 to 2004, he served as the Director of the International Migration Programme of the ILO, where he steered the organization's work in assisting member states to improve their policies on labour migration and directed its related program of research. He has contributed extensively to the literature on labour migration, particularly on the growth of contract labour migration in Asia and the Middle East, and on the structural changes influencing labour migration. He has an M.A. in Economics from McGill University and an M.A. in Public Administration from Harvard University.



Mr. Manolo's public lecture was an appropriate follow-up to Dr. Asis's lecture on Migration in the Philippines. Instead of the latter case-study approach, we were exposed to the larger picture of migration governance through the eyes of leaders, institutions and state actors. While there has been a conscious effort for individual state governments to facilitate the movement of goods and services across borders, the movement of people has become an increasingly complex - and even hostile - issue in a post-9/11 world.

Nonetheless migration is a globally pervasive phenomenon with an estimated 175 million people living in countries in which they are not native. With such a significant movement of people, Mr Manolo framed his lecture using three underlying themes to promote better migration management:

1. *The need for democratic states to collectively manage the issue of migration*
2. *The need to address gaps in the migration order; one in leadership, one in migrant protection and one in institutions.*
3. *The need to enhance migrant worker protection via multilateralism*

The issue of migration cannot be managed unilaterally due to its interdependent nature. Therefore, there is a need for better cooperation via clear and comprehensive policies for countries sending and receiving migrants. Current gaps in the migration order are a direct result of pervasive inequality and the vested interests of individual governments and institutions. This asymmetry in the decision-making process makes it difficult to pursue proactive measures that result in the implementation of mutually-beneficial policies.

Mr. Manolo also stressed the importance of understanding migration as part of a larger solution. The short-sighted and generalized notion of migrants taking advantage of welfare-states must not be overstated. Migrants are most often net contributors to the host country's workforce and economy. In this view, migration is not a problem to be solved, but rather, a phenomenon to be managed. While there are no clear answers for such a complex reality, I was left contemplating the fundamental role of power and inequality in reinforcing the current migration order.

The Community of Human Security in Asia: Moving toward Knowledge Networks

By Dr. Chantana Banpasirichote Wungaeo, MAIDS programme Director

Dr. Chantana was an invited panelist at Waseda University's International Symposium entitled 'Searching for Asian Community: Toward Building a Human Security Network'. The conference served as a forum to foster better cooperation between Asian intellectuals and regional graduate programs in International Development Studies. There was a desire to re-think Asian development problems with the goal of creating the necessary human security network needed to address them. Therefore, Dr. Chantana presented the following short paper to introduce the idea of knowledge networks as a way to promote human security in Asia.



Global and Regional Movements

The reality of people reaching out to people among Asian countries and the rest of the world has been initiated before. *People's Plan for the 21st century* has been experimented in early 1990s in Japan and Bangkok. The message sent across then was the "Alliance of Hope" to reflect upon the emerging efforts of people around the world to reaffirm people's participation in the alternative development movement. The tradition of people gathering beyond their borders continues even today with the spreading phenomena of *World Social Forum* which began in Brazil, and later on in South Africa and India, while perhaps Southeast Asia in the near future. People try to convince one another that "Another World is Possible" to set the stage for emancipation from the destined world of neo-liberalism.

When people reach out to each other, regional identities do not seem to matter since the causes bringing them together seem of greater importance. This challenges the unilateral world order and calls for greater global justice and democracy. The notion of people united across borders does not seem to have a specific formula nor does it have a strong sense of direction. It is the solidarity that counts. These movements are led and inspired by the amazement of diversity expressed by people across the region. Only transnational social activism can reflect upon the possibility of "unity among diversity".

Closer to home, the Asean People's Assembly (APA) originated in the network of international and security studies in the past few years serves as a platform to voice people's concerns regarding the current situation of the region. This form of gathering might be considered an effort to engage the state. The combination of track two and track three in this format is to influence certain state policies, particularly ones that relate to regional security issues. Perhaps not as provocative as transnational social activism, the APA might not have a clear sense of direction and its own cultural expression either, yet it is meant to establish a visibility of public space in the region where people's voices will be heard.

Asian Community: A Question of Relevance

It is generally understood that Asia and the EU are not comparable in the historical background and the formation of nation-states. This also implies further that Asia is far more diverse in every aspect - culture, economy and politics. As a matter of fact, a distinct nature of diversity is seen as having an Asian identity without having to become one whole community. There are factors to be considered if Asia is developing toward a stronger sense of community as in the case of the EU. First, it is important to ask what is happening to Asia in the future. What should happen if Asia should depart from conventional security and move toward a human security dimension of cooperation? Second, it is equally important to note that state-civil society relations in most Asian countries is far from satisfactory, and this in turn determines the merit of the regional community. Developing a meaningful community depends on the degree to which the citizens are actively engaged in society; public participation needs to be an embedded norm in Asia. If the current state-centric prototype of communities remains unchanged, building a stronger sense of a larger Asian community might lead to a more fragile society. Third, Asia should seek equality in the relationship with the rest of the world. Particularly, it should maintain a neutral position in relation to the hegemonic power.

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Human Security : A Knowledge Network

As the world has become paralyzed by the fear of terrorism, obsessed with trade competitiveness, and the trade-off of human rights protection with state securitization, Asia should take leadership to adjust the tone of these international obsessions. The ultimate reason for Asia to create a meaningful community is to respond to the security crisis by moving toward the promotion of human security. There must be a stronger emphasis on both the social dimension and peace building collaboration.

Human security as a new global agenda is at present being used mostly as an intervention framework in ODA recipient countries. Instead of being passive, Asian countries should take initiative to internalize the idea of human security into the political norms and practices to guarantee the protection of its own people from all forms of violence. It is undeniable that the freedom from want and freedom from fear paradigms are still major challenges for the region to overcome. To avoid being rhetorical, an investment in time and resources should be aimed to establish a *community of human security*, whereby the people are protected from violence through a working cross-national network complex. The network complex can be seen across disciplines, actors, sectors and countries.

Cross-national networking is not a new phenomenon. To create a community of human security needs, there is an imperative for an overarching framework in the form of a network complex. Human security is the broadest framework that can accommodate a spectrum of social movements ranging from human rights, environment, peace building, democracy, governance, and development. At the regional level, one can think of Forum Asia for Human Rights and Development (Forum Asia) in Bangkok, Focus on the Global South in Bangkok, Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives (ARENA) in Korea, Asian Institute for Human Rights in Bangkok. At the sub-regional level, there are, for example, M-Power (Mekong Program on Water Environment and Resilience) in Chiang Mai, Thailand; Southeast Asian Peace and Conflict Studies Network (Sain University Malaysia).

The community of human security must keep its visibility, create a regional public space, feed more workable solutions, and monitor the movement toward humanized Asian societies.



The MAIDS programme, at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, is organizing an international conference on **Human Security in Asia**. This Development Studies conference will use a *regional approach* to human security by:

- I. Examining the *status* of Human Security in Asia and provide an *Asian debate* on the theoretical aspects of human security.
- II. Discussing the *practical implications* of the concept of human security in terms of issues/problems and policy/program implementation from an Asian regional perspective
- III. Establishing a *regional network* on Human Security with International Development Studies programs in Asia

The programme is planning to hold **6 to 12 panels** to cover these themes. The proposed panels include: Environment and HS, Critical Assessment of HS, Economic security, Human Rights and HS, HS in practice, Health Security in a crossborder context, etc. We hope to create a *regional network* of practitioners and academics that will foster *research cooperation and debate* on human security issues in Asia after the conference.

We invite universities and research institutes to participate as co-organizers, conveners or to submit papers for presentations. We also send a **call for papers** to be submitted on issues falling under the conference themes. For more detailed information on the upcoming international conference on **Human Security in Asia**, the programme agenda, or how to get involved, please contact the MAIDS office or visit the conference's website:

<http://www.ids.polsci.chula.ac.th/humansecurity.htm>

International Training: Globalization, Social Justice and Civil Society

By Visiting Professor Jan Nederveen Pieterse; Organized by MAIDS and Focus on the Global South

Jan Nederveen Pieterse is Professor of sociology at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign specializing in transnational sociology. His research interests include globalization, development studies and cultural studies. He taught at Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, in Ghana and the United States, was a Visiting Professor in Japan and Indonesia and is a faculty at the Graduate School of National College of Arts, Lahore. He is also Co-Editor of the Review of International Political Economy and Advisory Editor of Futures, European Journal of Social Theory, Third Text, Ethnicities and Culture & Society and the World Academy of Art and Science. (www.soc.uiuc.edu/people/profile.asp?login=pieterse&type=faculty)

International Training Series Summary:

Session 1: October 3 rd , 2006	<p>I) What are the central debates in globalization? Debates broadly agree on the role of technology, the reconfiguration of states and that globalization is uneven. Disputes are whether globalization is essentially economic, what is the timing of globalization, whether inequality is growing or decreasing, is it a new round of domination, and what scope remains for national policy. Related themes are imperialism, dependency theory and world system theory. A newcomer is Oriental globalization. The central debates concern capitalism (and neoliberalism) and power (hegemony).</p> <p>II) Capitalism and Capitalisms Contemporary globalization is a package deal of technological and economic changes, changes in firms, international finance and political, social and cultural dynamics.</p>
Session 2: October 6 th , 2006	<p>Politics: States, Regionalism and US Hegemony What is the scope for state sovereignty in view of internationalization, the pooling of sovereignty and the growing role of non-state actors? How does American hegemony shape globalization? What are the implications of the Iraq war? What is the relationship between neoliberalism and the new wars?</p>
Session 3: October 10 th , 2006	<p>Globalization and Culture: McDonaldization, Jihad vs. McWorld, Hybridity? Does globalization mean growing worldwide homogenization, a clash of civilizations' or new hybrid formations?</p>
Session 4: October 16 th , 2006	<p>Global Inequality & Development Has global inequality has increased or decreased in recent times and why? 'It is not whether you globalize that matters, it is how you globalize (Dani Rodrik). Future scenarios include (a) global apartheid, (b) technical adjustments, moderate reforms and (c) major reforms (global governance, ecotaxes, global taxes).</p>

2006-2007

Programme Committee Members

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Master of Arts Programme in International Development Studies (MAIDS)

2007 – 2008 ACADEMIC YEAR

Application deadline: May 31st 2007

The Master of Arts in International Development Studies, known for short as MAIDS, is intended for people who are making, or have the potential to make, a meaningful contribution as researchers, practitioners, and leaders in the field of international development. The programme expects applicants to possess an undergraduate degree and some work or volunteer experience in international development, generally in the non-profit or governmental sector. The programme particularly encourages applications from citizens and residents of the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries.

The Programme is looking for individuals with sensitivity to and involvement in issues such as the promotion of social change, human rights, local community development, media freedom and humanitarian aid. The curriculum combines the study of a rigorous theoretical framework with field experience. Students have the opportunity to network with a wide range of practitioners working with government, international and civil society organizations. The thesis project allows the student to develop expertise in a particular area of interest.

MAIDS offers comprehensive and flexible training for, either for a career in international development, or further studies at the doctorate level. **The application form is available to download from our website.**

Programme Structure

The M.A. in International Development Studies is a full-time, one-year (Oct – Sep) programme divided in three four-month trimesters. The first two trimesters consist of four compulsory and four elective courses (3 credits each; totalling 24 credits). The third trimester is spent on thesis work in the student's area of interest (12 credits). Upon successful completion of the programme (36 credits) the student is awarded a Master of Arts degree in International Development Studies. The M.A. programme in International Development Studies is taught in English.

Compulsory Courses

- Development Theory and Practice
- Globalization and Development in Asia and the Pacific
- Politics of Public Policy
- Research Methodology in Development Studies

Elective Courses

- Communication, Democratization, and Development
- Conflict Resolution
- Development Project Management
- Human Rights and Gender Problems in Asia and the Pacific
- Migration as a Development Issue
- Selected Topics in Development and Economy
- Environmental Politics and Policy
- Development Practicum

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