

## **Inclusive and Equitable Climate Resilience: Voices from the Mekong Region**

Co-hosted by the Mekong Climate Resilience Partnership (MCRP), the Regional Dialogue Event in Chiang Mai involves interactive discussions in one-day dialogue workshop on 22 August and a 2-week Climate Change Arts Exhibition from 21 August to 3 September. The regional event also involves a field visit to an ethnic community in peri-urban area of Chiang Mai and one-day discussion for documentation of key messages and learning on 21 and 23 August, respectively. The 3-day event is funded by SEI's Strategic Collaborative Fund.

### **Climate Change Arts Exhibition**

Dates – 21 August – 3 September 2023

Venue – Some Space Gallery, Chiang Mai

The exhibition will display visual arts in different forms and formats, produced by five local artists through their interpretation and observation of climate change. The aim of the arts exhibition is to increase public awareness and understanding of climate crisis, the linkages between climate change and socio-economic development, and impacts on the livelihoods and well-being of local communities, particularly marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

### **Field visit**

Date 21 August 2023

Details – see attached

### **One-day Regional Dialogue Forum**

Date 22 August 2023

Venue – Ibis Styles Chiang Mai

### **One-day Documentation**

Date 23 August 2023

Venue – Ibis Styles Chiang Mai

Drawing on the implementation of the project which includes situation analysis and site visits, the regional consortium and partners will discuss and reflect on key learning and new knowledge. Messages will be written up as a joint statement to contribute to policy planning and actions.

### **Rationale of the Regional Dialogue Forum in Chiang Mai**

According to the Global Climate Risk Index reported by GermanWatch, the developing countries in Southeast Asia are at high risk and vulnerable to climate-related hazards and extreme weather events. In April-May 2023, unprecedented extreme temperatures were recorded in South and Southeast Asian countries. Combined with humidity, extreme heat caused casualties from heatstroke and surges in electricity demand. Climate change will make 'once-in-200 years' heatwave events more common.

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In addition to changes in temperatures, countries in the Mekong Sub-region are faced with unpredictable rainfall patterns. Rapid urbanisation, economic expansion, and large-scale infrastructure development are key drivers of water insecurity, supply shortages, pollution, and flooding. The intersecting water-related challenges include water and disaster governance, equity, and justice are exacerbated by climate change. Floods and droughts are not only increasing in intensity and frequency but also in complexity for preparedness.

The issues of climate change are intersecting with challenges of social inequalities, poverty, and marginalisation. Weak institutional capacity, ineffective governance, and unbalanced political power also lead to unjust and ill-informed development plans and decisions. The lack of public participation, representation and recognition of different social groups and needs further exacerbate climate vulnerability of marginalised, poor, and disadvantaged community groups.

In response to tackling climate change, ASEAN countries have ratified the 2015 Paris Agreement. The ASEAN climate vision 2050 presented in the ASEAN State of Climate Change Report (ASCCR) consists of long-term goals of development, adaptation, and mitigation. The ASCCR outlines ambitious efforts and targets of ASEAN to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. But there is an urgent need for more coordinated efforts in adaptation and building social and environmental resilience to climate change.

Countries in the ASEAN, including the Greater Mekong Sub-region need to demonstrate its commitment to address regional gaps and priorities in climate adaptation and resilience building of vulnerable communities. The effects of both slow-onset disasters such as droughts and extreme weather events causing floods and flash floods are disproportionately impacting the livelihoods and well-being of those who are already socially, economically, geographically, and developmentally marginalised. With limited or no access to welfare or state assistance, any crises, big or small, pose setbacks and a continual 'process of recovery'.

Regional partnership and political will in policy making and actions for inclusive and equitable adaptation and strengthening social and environmental resilience to climate change are urgently needed. This is particularly relevant for natural resource dependent countries in the Mekong region where environmental issues transcend across boundaries. Achieving climate adaptation and resilience goals will require not only coordinated efforts of multi-scalar governance but also bottom-up approaches in planning and implementation. National-level climate policy needs to reframe responses and actions to address risks, vulnerabilities and uncertainty faced by local marginalised and informal community groups who bear the brunt of climate crisis, disasters, and changing weather patterns.

To address urgent and emerging complex issues and challenges of the climate crisis, inclusive and equal voices are critical in knowledge co-production, agenda setting and policy engagement. New forms of knowledge production are necessary to respond to the complexity of social, environmental, and economic concerns for climate change and sustainable

development. Knowledges that are context-driven and problem-focused require the engagement of diverse social groups and multiple disciplines.

### The Objective of the Regional Dialogue Forum

The objective of the regional dialogue forum is to advocate for more inclusive and equitable climate adaptation and resilience planning and actions that are grounded on evidence-based knowledge and participatory approaches.

The forum will bring together civil society, academics, practitioners, and decision-makers to focus on climate crisis and vulnerability of the poor and marginalised community groups in the Mekong region. Based on case studies from Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, the forum aims to discuss justice- and rights-based approaches and solutions to contribute to better climate policy at regional, national, and local levels.

### Expected outputs

- Strengthened regional networks of multi-stakeholders to engage in bottom-up approaches to support inclusive and equitable climate actions, adaptation and resilience building activities
- New knowledge generated to contribute to influencing policy and planning for climate actions and responses to reduce risks, impacts and vulnerabilities of local communities

### Deliverables

- A joint statement to contribute to ASEAN policy agenda setting and collaborative actions
- Key messages to contribute to national-level climate adaptation and resilience policy

### Tentative agenda

#### Onsite only

\*\* Master of Ceremonies - Dr Kritsada Boonchai – Thai Climate Justice for All

Time	Activity	Detail
8.30am	Registration Pre-event survey (SEI)	
9.00-9.15	Opening speech Welcoming speech	Dr Chamniern Vorratnchaiphan
9.15-9.30	Mekong Climate Resilience Partnership background The objectives of the dialogue workshop	Dr Pakamas Thinphanga Lead of Regional Consortium (TEI)
9.30-10.30	<b>Keynote speaker 1 – Asst. Prof. Warathida Chaiyapa, PhD</b> School of Public Policy, Chiang Mai University <b><i>Justice and rights-based approaches to climate policy and actions</i></b>	Keynote speaker 40 minutes Discussion 20 minutes  -The issues of climate policy planning and implementation

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Time	Activity	Detail
	Q&A	in terms of justice, rights, and equity -Linking climate change and development pathways – what are key challenges in terms of policy planning and implementation
10.30-10.45	Coffee break	
10.45-12.00	<p><b>Panel 1 – Why are locally led climate responses, adaptation, and resilience actions urgent and important?</b></p> <p>Q&amp;A</p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr Chaya Vaddhanaphuti, Chiang Mai University, Thailand</li> <li>- Dr Bach Sinh Tan, IPAM, Vietnam</li> <li>- Dr Monchai Pongsiri, Khon Kaen University</li> <li>- Mr Ratha Chhorm Habitat for Humanity Cambodia</li> </ul>	<p>Panel 50 minutes Discussion 25 minutes</p> <p>Panellists 4-5 persons from Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam</p> <p>Moderator – Prof Dr Buapun Promphakping, Khon Kaen University</p> <p>Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Who are most vulnerable to climate change and why?</li> <li>2) How to amplify voices of marginalised and vulnerable community groups?</li> <li>3) The role of local knowledge in climate actions and responses</li> </ol>
12.00-13.00	Lunch	
13.00-14.00	<p><b>Dr Chamniern Vorratnchaiphan</b> <i>Climate crisis and the future of most vulnerable in the Mekong region</i> Senior Advisor to Thailand Environment Institute and IUCN</p> <p>Q&amp;A</p>	<p>Keynote speaker 40 minutes Discussion 20 minutes</p> <p>-Development pathways and solutions in terms of policy, political will, and governance -Regional collaboration in building climate resilience – how?</p>
14.00-14.30	<p>Ted Talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thailand – Dr Kritsada Boonchai, Thai Climate Justice For All</li> </ul>	Ted Talk – 10 minutes each Speakers from Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam

Time	Activity	Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vietnam – Dr Nguyen Minh Tu, Institute of Circular Economy HCM National University</li> <li>- Cambodia – Dr Try Thuon, RUPP, Cambodia</li> </ul>	
14.30-14.45	Coffee break	
14.45-15.45	<p><b>Panel 2 – What can be done to promote, support and enhance inclusive and equitable climate adaptation and resilience across scales?</b></p> <p>Q&amp;A</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms Kesinee Kwaenjaroen, SDF</li> <li>- Ajarn Narumol Thammapruxa, Chiang Mai University</li> <li>- Dr Rattikarn khambud, the Department of Public Works and Town &amp; Country Planning, Thailand</li> <li>- Dr Somporn Siriporananont, Former President of Songkhla Province Chamber of Commerce, Thailand</li> <li>- Dr Bach Sinh Tan, IPAM, Vietnam</li> <li>- Dr Try Thuon, RUPP Cambodia</li> </ul>	<p>Panel 50 minutes Discussion 25 minutes</p> <p>Panellists 4-5 persons from Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam</p> <p>Moderator – Prof Dr Buapun Promphakping, Khon Kaen University</p> <p>Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What are gaps, barriers, needs and priorities in terms policy capacity and governance</li> <li>2) The role of different state and non-state actors in inclusive and equitable climate resilience</li> <li>3) How to improve public awareness, understanding and responsibility?</li> </ol>
15.45-16.15	Final interactive discussion	Reflection on regional collaboration on climate actions and responses to reduce vulnerability of marginalised and disadvantaged groups
16.15-16.30	Concluding remarks Closing	Dr Chamniern Vorratnchaiphan
16.30-16.40	Post-event survey (SEI)	



Time	Activity	Detail
17.00-18.30	Visiting Arts Exhibition Interacting with artists	Transport organised to pick up participants from the meeting venue to Arts Exhibition venue to dinner and back to the hotel
18.30	Group dinner	

**Mekong Climate Resilience Partnership (MCRP)** is funded by SEI Strategic Collaborative Fund under the theme Partnerships for Climate Actions (Full project title: *Strengthening regional knowledge-policy-practice networks for inclusive and equitable climate resilience actions in the lower Mekong region*)

**The MCRP** is a regional consortium of academics and NGOs from Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam

- Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)
- Thai Climate Justice for All (TCJA)
- Chiang Mai University (CMU)
- Institute for Policy and Management (IPAM)
- Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)

The objective is to foster and strengthen regional collaborative partnerships to play an active role in driving inclusive and equitable climate resilience actions. The consortium will engage with marginalised and vulnerable community groups, grassroots organisations, multi-disciplinary academics, the business/private sector, and policy/decision makers in structured and facilitated dialogues.