

AFC3 Southeast Asia Round Table Proposal

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“Religious Responses to Changing Social Environments in Southeast Asia”

Time : September 30, 2016 (Fri) 9:00~12:30

Venue : Kitakyushu International Conference Center, Conference Room

Host : Atsumi International Foundation Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA)

Grant: Japan Foundation Asia Center

Aim of Forum:

Southeast Asia is a mosaic of different ethnicities, religions, and socio-cultural contacts. Following liberation from colonial domination, Southeast Asian countries struggled to integrate their various ethnicities and religious cultures as part of the process of nation-building. Under the increasing influence of globalization since the 1990s, these nation-states are once again confronted with profound social transformations and upheavals.

While Southeast Asian countries as a whole have seen rapid economic development due to the effects of the global spread of market economies, they have simultaneously experienced an increase in social inequality, environmental degradation, violations of human rights, and religious and ethnic conflicts. This situation has raised doubts about the sustainability of the current economic, social, and economic systems. Based on their respective religious values and ethics, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, and other religious leaders have been at the forefront of voicing powerful critiques of these destructive trends and their underlying causes. However, despite the fact that these religions aim for peace, the wellbeing of society, and the happiness of mankind, many tend to see in religion a main cause of these recent conflicts and frictions.

This roundtable seeks to address this one-sided perception of the role of religion. Based on case studies presented by researchers from this region, the roundtable will further engage researchers active in Japan to discuss how religions can contribute to fostering sustainable social, political, and economic development.

Program Overview :

9:00 Opening

Part 1. 9:15~10:15

【Case Presentations】

Case Presentation 1. (Cambodia)

(15 minutes) Sustainable Development and the Role of Buddhism

Case Presentation 2. (Indonesia) :

(15 minutes) Democracy's Dilemma: Islamic Society's Democratization and Religion

Case Presentation 3. (Philippines) :

(15 minutes) Christianity & Global Capitalism: Social Fairness and Environmental Protection

Case Presentation 4. (Thailand) :

(15 minutes) Social Changes due to Globalization and Thailand's Engaged Buddhism: In the Context of Buddhism and Ecology

Coffee Break] (30 minutes)

Part2. 10:45~12:30

【Round Table】

Point of Discussion : (15 minutes)

Round Table (Presenter Discussion + Open Discussion) (75 minutes)

Overall Comments (10 minutes)

Language : English

Participants : panelists and the audience, about 60 to 70 people are expected

《Presenters & Panelists》

【Overall Moderator】 : Mira Sonntag (Associate Professor, Rikkyo University)

【Case Presentation】

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| Case Presentation 1. | (Cambodia) | "Sustainable Development and the Role of Buddhism" |
| Presenter : | Heng Monychenda | Executive Director, Buddhism for Development
(Buddhism, Community based Sustainable Development) |
| Case Presentation 2. | (Indonesia) | "Democracy's Dilemma: Islam Society's Democratization and Religion" |
| Presenter : | Achmad Munjid | Assistant Professor, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Gadjah Mada University (Comparative Religion :religion in public life) |
| Case Presentation 3. | (Philippines) | "Christianity & Global Capitalism: Social Fairness and Environmental Protection" |
| Presenter : | Jayeel S. Cornelio | Assistant Professor and Director of the Development Studies Program, the Ateneo de Manila University
(Sociology of Religion, Contemporary Christianity) |
| Case Presentation 4. | (Thailand) | "Social Changes due to Globalization and Thailand's Engaged Buddhism: In the Context of Buddhism and Human Ecology" |
| Presenter : | Vichak Panich | Independent Buddhist Scholar and Meditation Teacher, Spirit in Education Movement
(Socially Engaged Buddhism, Human Ecology, Meditation) |

【Roundtable Discussion】 :

Moderator : Ranjana Mukhopadhiyaya (Associate Professor, Delhi University)

Panelists :

All case presenters and

Philippines Rosalina Palanca-Tan (Ateneo de Manila University)

Ferdinand Maquito (Temple University Japan)

Vietnam Huynh Mui (Thang Long University)

Indonesia Jakfar Idrus (Kokushikan University)

Mya Dwe Rostika (Kokushikan University)

Myanmar Carine Jaquet (Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia Studies)

[Invited Panelists from Japan (in planning)]

【Overall Comments】 Erik Schicketanz (Postdoctoral Fellow, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science: The University of Tokyo)