

# **“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

## ■ **Background and Aim:**

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 and should contribute to fostering sustainable social and political development, peaceful inter-religious relations, and moral frameworks for economic reasoning.

■ **Language:** English

## ■ **Program :**

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

【Case Presentation】

◇ Case Presentation 1 (Indonesia)

### **“Democracy’s Dilemma in Post-1998 Indonesia: More Freedom Means More Inter-Religious Conflict or Dialogue?”**

Achmad Munjid (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Gadjah Mada University)

◇ Case Presentation 2 (Philippines)

### **“Climate change and the Catholic response in the Philippines”**

Jayeel S. Cornelio (Assistant Professor and Director of the Development Studies Program, Ateneo de Manila University)

✧ Case Presentation 3 (Thailand)

**“Buddhism against Humanity: when loving-kindness doesn’t apply”**

Vichak Panich (Independent Buddhist Scholar and Meditation Teacher, Spirit in Education Movement)

✧ Case Presentation 4 (Myanmar)

**“Religion and Relief: Faith-Based Organization and the role of social donations in Myanmar”**

Carine Jaquet (Associate Researcher, Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia Studies)

[Roundtable Discussion] :

Moderator : Ranjana Mukhopadhiyaya (Associate Professor, Delhi University)

Panelists: All case presenters and

Philippines: Rosalina Palanca-Tan (Ateneo de Manila University)

Jane Toribio (Department of Agrarian reform, Philippines)

Vietnam: Huynh Mui (Thang Long University)

Indonesia: Jakfar Idrus (Kokushikan University)

Mya Dwe Rostika (Kokushikan University)

Japan: Shiori Ui (Rikkyo University)

[Sum Up] Erik Schicketanz (Postdoctoral Fellow, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science :  
The University of Tokyo)