

NEWSLETTER

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THE URBAN FORUM AND I

By Sekson Yongvanit (Thailand)

I think almost all of you know me and I may not need any introduction! But I want to tell you a story not particularly about myself but about ForUm and its impact on me. I am sure some of you will share the same sentiments as me if you have been long enough with ForUm but you probably choose not to tell your story. Here is mine.

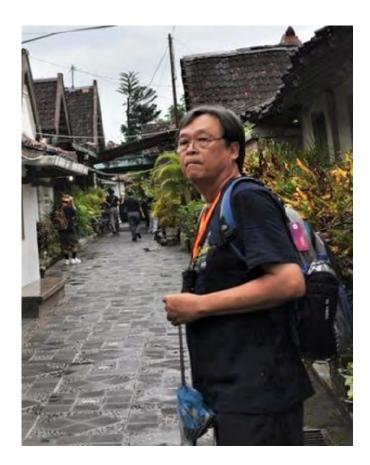
My name is Sekson Yongvanit. I am a lecturer at Khon Kaen University, which is located in Khon Kaen City in Northeast Thailand. In 1976, I had the opportunity to study at the world-renown University of Cologne in Germany, from where I graduated in 1986 with a Vor-Diplom and Diplom (Geography). After graduation, I returned to work at Khon Kaen University. Interestingly, some 10 years later, between 1994 and 1999, I was awarded DAAD fundings to study for my PhD in Geography at the University of Tübingen in Germany. This involved travelling to and from Thailand and Germany three times, each time for a period of 3 months of research until I completed my doctorate in Geography.

Out of the blue, in 2005, I received an invitation from Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas asking if I would be keen to participate in a forthcoming Southeast Asian - German Summer School to be held at the University of Cologne. I was elated for the chance to visit my alma mater again and seized the opportunity to attend the Summer School even though I did not know what really to expect. That was in October 16th - 29th 2005 and the topic was "Urban and Peri-Urban Developments - Structures, Processes and Solutions". It was initially a daunting experience especially to meet great German scholars like Ajan Frauke Kraas, Ajan Hans Gebhardt, Ajan Josef Nipper and Ajan Javier Revilla Diez, who were the main speakers (some of whom I am already acquainted).

There were 9 other guest speakers (whom I hardly know) and there were, besides the speakers, 13 support staff at this unique conference.

I love Cologne partly because this was where I had lived, worked and studied for 12 years. And I am fluent in the German language already. In truth, I have lost my heart to Cologne. I was very emotionally excited to have this great and unexpected opportunity to come back to Cologne again to meet the Geography faculty and attend this Summer School. Not only that, as the name "Southeast Asian-German" implies, there were participants from other ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia (4 participants), Vietnam (5 participants), Philippines (5 participants), Indonesia (9 participants), Malaysia (1 participant) and Thailand (just the "special" me alone!). This conference ran for 14 days besides another 2 days for arrival and departure! At first, I could not understand why the conference had to be so long. Later, I found out why. The actual discussion was probably for about 5 days, but was interestingly interspersed (so that you don't sit too long!) with many study tours in and around the city to explore the real life situation about the urban physical and social structures, commercial sections, and problems confronting the cities and the surrounding hinterland. The conference was excellently managed. There were no dull moments as we discussed problems encountered. All seminar participants had to present their own research findings from their respective





Student days in 1980s in Cologne (left) and exploring Solo (Indonesia) at a Forum outing in 2010 (right).

countries and had to face daunting questions in the one-hour slots (compared to current conference slots of only half hour including Q & A). It was a really challenging and learning experience as we had time to discuss and compare with other Southeast Asian countries (which a half-hour presentation would not be able to provide!).

In fact, I wish to categorically state that the long discussions enabled me to learn more about other ASEAN countries, which helped me substantially in my later academic progress. I must say that it was indeed a tremendous opening and opportunity to be able to attend this conference, as we, so-called urban experts in ASEAN, rarely had opportunities to meet each other to compare notes and learn from each other. Because of that, Thai scholars have the tendency to look towards the West rather than to look ASEAN to learn new things.

In the evenings, after dinner, we joined in social conversations with resource persons, participants and Summer School staff. Social activities included cultural presentations from the respective countries. It was fun, laughter and good fellowship all the way. It was here that the more chronologically senior participants (I was one of them!) formed an informal group among themselves which they called Club 50 (supposed to be for those above 50 years old only) which until today, 15 years later, has played a crucial albeit informal role of bonding a most diverse group of Southeast Asian and German participants all in the name of fun. So, the Summer School, later renamed as the ForUm, was hard work and lots of fun!

Almost annual meetings, sometimes twice a year, in different Southeast Asian countries as well as in Germany, made it possible for me to meet experts from ASEAN and great friendships were formed. I feel the ForUm meetings are like family reunions - we are one family. So, I always make sure that I always prepare the best papers for the ForUm seminars.

In 2007, I was in charge to host the ForUm seminar in Thailand. And organising it means I had to contact and coordinate with academics from various universities in Thailand. This was a formidable task but it provided me the first opportunity to meet faculty members from other universities in Thailand, who all accepted me primarily because I contacted them under the 'prestigious' name of ForUm – a Southeast Asian (ASEAN) group. Not only that, I must say that it is because of ForUm that I gained more knowledge, new concepts, new ideas and understanding regarding the current urban situations in ASEAN countries. In addition, I was able to transfer to my students and share with them all these new knowledge, ideas and concepts. Cross-border academic connections meant that I was able to arrange fieldworks/study trips to countries like Vietnam and Indonesia. Further, I was able to organise an on-going international conference between Khon Kaen University and the National University of Economy in Hanoi. To all my 30 plus ASEAN scholars and experts (including our German counterparts) in the urban field, thank you for sharing your experience and expertise. You have also become very good friends and most ready to help and care.

It is with joy and confidence, then for me to receive the award from Khon Kaen University as the Outstanding Award in Research, the Outstanding Award in Social Activities and also the Best Lecturer Outstanding Award at the national level from the Association of University Staff of Thailand. Finally, I received the title of Professor in Geography, which is indeed a proud achievement in Thailand. Thank you to all my ForUm friends and DAAD. Although I am retired now, the University still invites me to be a full-time lecturer and be head of the Master Programme, an administrative member of the doctoral programme, as well as being an advisor for master and doctoral students.

Thank you again for the great opportunity that DAAD - ForUm has given me. Thanks to the ForUm family, (Club 50 and Ajan Kraas) for your kind friendship, kind hearts and unfailing caring for each other.

(Edited by LBT)

01: CELEBRATING SUCCESS OF FORUM MEMBERS







DEXTER S. LO



First ForUm participation was in 2010 in Indonesia followed by 2 other participations in 2011 (Philippines) and 2018 (Malaysia).

Appointed as Director, Xavier University Institutional Societal Engagement in 2017.

Assistant Professor Engr. Dexter Lo is the Founding Director of Xavier University's Engineering Resource Center, which is the research and social development arm of the College of Engineering in Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan, in Mindanao. That was in 2008. But since 2017, he has been appointed as Director of the university's Institutional Societal Engagement which oversees eight specialised centres in the university - engaging in diverse fields such as urban challenges, disasters and resilience, ridge-river-reef conservation, food security, public health, alternative learning, business innovations, transformative governance, inter-faith peace and development initiatives.

This is, indeed, a highly responsible task but one that is empowered by his vast experiences, training and exposure. Besides a graduate degree in Civil Engineering, Dexter has undergone specialised trainings in Asia and Europe, in the fields he is now appropriately in charge of: disaster risk management, resilient cities, climate change, sustainable development, and bridging leadership. He is a member of the Northern Mindanao Regional Land Use Committee, the City Local Housing Board, and the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines. One important project he is involved in is the Philippines Resilience of School Infrastructures to Multi Hazard (PRISMH) (funded by the British Council and the Philippine Government).

Besides speaking in numerous national and international conferences, one self-effacing work of Dexter is reaching out to isolated communities in the Philippines conducting grass-root workshops, making science and engineering matter to people's lives.

Although ForUm meetings would have widened his urban perspectives, ForUm has also been enriched by his participation. However, it is not all work and no play though. In his very limited spare time, Dexter plays the piano, and sometimes gazes at the stars through a telescope at his home library and scribbling poems!

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LE THU HOA



First ForUm participation was in 2008 (Vietnam) followed by 10 other participations in 2009 (Malaysia & Germany), 2010 (Indonesia), 2011 (Philippines & Myanmar), 2012 (Germany & Myanmar), 2015 (Myanmar), 2017 (Thailand) and 2018 (Malaysia).

An Effective and Successful Deanship.

Almost immediately after she was appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Environmental, Climate Change and Urban Studies, in the National Economics University, (Hanoi), Assoc. Prof. Le Thu Hoa boldly took up the challenge of organising the ForUm Conference in her University in December 2008. Since that successful hosting, she has been closely connected with ForUm activities and members. This, indelibly, influenced her strategy of internationalising opportunities for her faculty advancement during the entire tenure of her Deanship (until 2018).

She initiated international collaboration, networking, and cooperation with foreign universities such as ChuO University (Japan), Mokpo University (Korea), Saint Mary's University (Canada), Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia) and Khon Kaen University (Thailand) - the last two the direct outcome of ForUm connectivity. For instance, it was the networking with Prof. Sekson Yongvanit (a Club 50 member of ForUm) that culminated in the biannual International Conference between Khon Kaen University and National Economics University, alternating between locations in Khon Kaen and Hanoi since 2013!

What a legacy to leave behind! Currently, Le Thu Hoa is the Scientific Secretary in the research project on "Estimating economic benefits associated with air quality improvements in Hanoi City", funded by the Vietnam National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED). In addition, she is serving as a consultant in numerous national projects with UNDP, UNIDO, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Planning and Investment.

It is, then, understandable that the University insisted on retaining her after retirement (in Vietnam, women retire at a much younger age) to continue with her teaching and research.

Well done, Associate Professor Le Thu Hoa.

PROF. DR. IR. ENI HARMAYANI



Participated in the 2006 ForUm in Indonesia followed by 7 others in 2007 (Philippines), 2008 (Thailand and Vietnam), 2009 (Germany), 2010 (Laos and Indonesia), and 2011 (Myanmar).

Dean of Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Universitas Gadjah Mada

It is not just about Prof. Eni Harmayani's appointment as the Dean of Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Jogjakarta since 2016 but what she has achieved during her tenure.

She has done a lot work in a short span of time in improving the quality of teaching and research in her Faculty. In 2018, the undergraduate programme in the Faculty received full international accreditation by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) and also received a Quality Assurance certification by ASEAN University Network (AUN).

Not only that, she also managed to internationalise the undergraduate and graduate programmes by establishing dual degree programmes with Prince of Songkhla University and Khon Kaen University from Thailand. In addition to this, Prof. Eni sought to improve student and lecturer exposure to international research and educational system through staff and student exchange programmes with universities in Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Sweden, Spain, and Austria. She also initiated 2 serial Summer Course Programmes: one on Traditional Food for Agro-biodiversity and the other, on Health and Tourism. These are attended by participants, speakers and mentors from Thailand, Denmark, Sweden, and Taiwan. Between 2014 and 2016, she was appointed as Project Leader in the Health Food Tradition of Asia Project funded by United Nations University.

She is co-founder and Vice President of the Indonesian Society for Nutraceutical and Functional Food which was established in 2016. Because of her active engagement and dedication in research and publication (which included a patent) she has been selected as a member of the prestigious National Research Council since 2015.

This is what she has to say about ForUm – "It is undoubted that ForUm has contributed a lot in improving my capacity as a lecturer and profession, to be able to see not only in multi- and trans-disciplines but also from an international perspective. I would like to thank Prof. Frauke Kraas, "Club 50" and all ForUm members for expanding my horizon."

Well done, Prof. Dr. Eni.

02: COUNTRY REPORT FROM CAMBODIA

Prak Angkeara

• As Deputy Director General of Housing at the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Mr. Prak Angkeara was responsible for the project "Promote the Development of Urban and Rural Settlements Resilient to Climate-Induced Disasters" within The National Council for Sustainable Development. Project partner is HFHC, Habitat for Humanity Cambodia.

The webpage is informing about the background: "Climate change affects the livelihoods of low income communities whose settlements are often devastated by the impacts of climate change. The poor communities usually cannot afford to purchase resilient houses to withstand the impacts of severe storms or high water levels associated with flooding. The temporary, informal settlements constructed with materials with appropriate specification are not built to be resilient to climate hazards. Some older permanent settlement areas are also exposed to the climate-induced risks associated with changes that occur in surrounding areas, especially in upstream areas. Therefore, the construction of low-cost, safe, resilient housing represents the most effective means for resolving the resilient housing conditions of poor people." As overall objectives it was stated: "Promote the rural and urban low cost, safe, resilient houses for vulnerable households to adapt to climate change impacts."

Source: https://ncsd.moe.gov.kh/dcc/project/promote-development-urban-and-rural-settlements-resilient-climate-induced-disasters

• For another project, a newspaper article reported: "Soldiers and police officials were granted 500 houses on Tuesday by the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction and Stung Treng authorities on land allocated for social land concessions. (...) Each family, he said, was granted a 50m by 100m house on 3ha. The plots were given by Prak Angkeara, the deputy director-general of housing at the Ministry of Land Management, and Chea Thavarith, Stung Treng provincial deputy governor." (The Phnom Penh Post, 10.4.2019)

Border guards get 500 homes

Soth Koemsoeun | Publication date 10 April 2019 | 08:05 IC





https://www.phnompenhpost.com/natio nal/border-guards-get-500-homes

03: COUNTRY REPORT FROM INDONESIA

Dr. Rini Rachmawati

- Was invited as a keynote speaker at the Ecosmart-2019 Seminar on Environmental at a Crossroads: SMART Approaches for a Sustainable Future, which was held in the Department of Regional Geography, Universitatea Din Bucuresti, Romania. Dr Rini Rachmawati presented a paper on "Toward better city management through Smart City implementation", (25-28 Sept. 2019).
- Together with 9 students, Dr Rini Rachmawati attended the 15th International Asian Urbanization Conference held in Vietnam organised by the Asian Urban Research Association (AURA) & Vietnamese-German University (VGU). Dr Rini presented a paper on "Smart Cities: progress and challenge in establishing liveable cities". At this seminar Dr Rini also participated in the Special Session on Smart City in Binh Duong-Vietnam and Brainport Eindhoven - Netherlands (27-30 Nov. 2019).

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VIETNAMESE-GERMAN UNIVERSITY

15" INTERNATIONAL ASIAN URBANIZATION CONFERENCE

Dr. Rini Rachmawati as keynote speaker at the seminar held at the Facultatea De Geografie-Universitatea Din Bucuresti-Romania

Dr. Rini Rachmawati with her students at the Asian Urbanisation Conference in Vietnam (2019)



Dr. Rini Rachmawati in the discussant session at the Asian Urbanisation Conference in Vietnam (2019)

- **Prof. Dr. Johannes Hamhaber** from ITT (University of Applied Sciences Cologne, Germany) was invited to present a lecture on "Urban history: urban paradigms toward sustainable cities" using a case study of Cologne City in the Urban Studies course in the Department of Development Geography, UGM (20 Aug. 2019).
- On November 12, 2019, **Prof. Khin Khin Soe** from Yangon University, Myanmar was invited to give a lecture on the regional geography of Myanmar in the Regional Geography of ASEAN Countries course. (In 2021, a research collaboration between Dr. Rini and Prof. Khin Khin will be undertaken on "The study of the moving of the national capital" by comparing the situation in Indonesia and Myanmar).



Prof Dr Johannes Hamhaber from ITT-Germany as a guest lecturer on the Urban Studies course in UGM.



Prof Khin Khin Soe from Yangon University participating in Regional Development Study Program at UGM.

• At the height of the Covid 19 pandemic period (March to July 2020), Dr. Rini was invited to speak at several webinar events such as the Webinar organised by the Association of Planning Experts ("Implementation of Smart City, Village & Region in facing pandemic"); the Online Training on Planning-Online Village Development Planning Training for the implementation of Community Services of UGM ("ICT-based village development and smart village development" and "Implementation of Smart City, Village & Region during the Covid-19 pandemic period and in facing the new normal"); and at the Scientific Discussion on Rural Empowerment: Concepts, Application and Impact ("Smart village: concepts and applications for empowering rural communities").



Speaking on the Implementation of Smart City, Village & Region in Facing Pandemic Webinar held by the Planning Experts Association.



Speaking at a Webinar on Smart Village: Concepts and Applications for Empowering Rural Communities.



As Speaker at the Online Training on Planning-Training on Village Development Planning for the Implementation of Community Services-UGM.



At the Webinar Event at UGM on the Implementation of Smart City, Village & Region during the Covid-19 Pandemic Period and in Facing the New Normal, with regional head speakers.

Dr. Djaka Marwasta

- Presented papers in several international conferences namely, the International Conference of Science and Technology (ICST) held in Yogyakarta (30-31 July 2019); the 9th International Conference on Public Organization (ICONPO), in Khon Kaen City (27 30 Aug. 2019); the 14th International Conference on Humanities and Social Science (IC-HUSO) held in Khon Kaen (10 12 Nov. 2019); the International ESD Forum in UGM (12-13 Nov. 2019).
- Dr. Djaka served in the Organising Committee of the 3rd International Conference of Environment and Resources Management (ICERM) held in UGM which was also graced by Prof Lee Boon Thong (Malaysia) and Prof Khin Khin Soe (Myanmar) as keynote speakers (14 Nov. 2019).
- Dr. Djaka led a contingent of 9 students from the Faculty of Geography, UGM to the 9th ICONPO on a student academic visit to Faculty of Architecture, KKU, Thailand.



Delegations of UGM with Dean and faculty members of KKU

• Dr. Djaka Marwasta also participated in the 6th IMaREC Workshop in Universitas Gadjah Mada which was attended by partner universities incorporated into the Center for Natural Resources and Development (CNRD) (12-15 Aug. 2019). Participants consisted of Universitas Gadjah Mada, Ain Sham University (ASU) (Egypt), TH Köln (Germany), Kenyatta University (KU) (Kenya), and Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí (UASLP) (Mexico). The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the curriculum of the master's program at each university to accommodate students who are interested in taking courses at partner universities.



- Dr. Djaka was also involved in a joint research between the Faculty of Geography, Universitas Gadjah Mada and the College of Liberal Arts, National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) in preparation for the implementation of the International Undergraduate Program (IUP) by the Faculty of Geography, Universitas Gadjah Mada (Feb. 2019).
- Dr. Djaka was also invited by the Indonesian Public Radio Broadcasting (RRI Programe 1) to conduct Talk Shows on "Cities resilience facing natural disasters" (21 Jan. 2020).

Prof. Dr. Ir. Eni Harmayani

Was actively involved in the Summer Course on "Food and lifestyle from technology, gastronomy, culture and tourism perspectives" involving 10 invited lecturers from Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, UK, and India and 30 participants from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Japan. The program was conducted by the Faculty of Agriculture Technology, UGM supported by the Center for Academic Innovation and Studies, UGM (15-25 July 2019).



Food donation for community and elderly during Covid-19 pandemic.



- Was also involved in the Seminar and Master Class on Indonesian Healthy Culinary in collaboration with Creative Economy Agency (4-5 Sept. 2019).
- During the Covid 19 pandemic, in collaboration with Food Bank of Indonesia and PT. ABC, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, she helped in the distribution of 10,000 packages of food to children, elderly, students in the urban and rural community, who were affected by the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Prof. Eni is a regular invited speaker in webinars such as the "Healthy life with functional food" (conducted by the Faculty of Agriculture, Muhammadiyah Mataram University, Lombok in collaboration with the Indonesian Association of Food Technologists) (10 June 2020); "Covid-19 mitigation through functional food from local resources" (conducted by South East Sulawesi University) (13 June 2020); "Food in the new normal era", (conducted by the Faculty of Agricultural Technology, UGM in collaboration with the Indonesian Association of Food Technologists, Yogyakarta Chapter) (29 June 2020); "Traditional food business post pandemic: opportunity and challenges", in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture, Lampung University; "Food diversification for food security: improving food access for family" (conducted by the Food Bank of Indonesia) (16 July 2020).

04: COUNTRY REPORT FROM LAOS

Dr. Xayaphone Vongvilay

 He attended the ASEAN SMART CITIES FORUM in World Smart City Expo 2019, Seoul & Goyang City (KINTEX), Korea.

The ASEAN-Korea Centre (Secretary General Lee Hyuk) organized the 'ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) Cooperation Forum' and 'Smart City Technology Forum' in 4-5 September 2019 at KINTEX in conjunction with the World Smart City Expo (WSCE 2019), co-hosted by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) and the Ministry of Science & ICT (MSIT), and organized by Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH), Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-Water), and KINTEX.





• He attended the Leader Urban Governance workshop. Asian Smart City Network 26-30/11/2018, Singapore, hosted by the Temasek Foundation. Ten teams from nine countries looking to exchange views, perspective and innovative solutions for their urban challenges ranging from resilience in urban redevelopment, drainage and wastewater management, smart traffic management, and housing. Thanks to Centre of Liveable Cities for hosting them!







05: COUNTRY REPORT FROM MALAYSIA

Dr. Goh Hong Ching

- Currently involved as the Principal Researcher in the project on "Fostering Sustainable Behaviour Among Women And Children Within The Marine Park Community Through Community Based Social Marketing", 2019 – 2020.
- Currently, she is heading the Malaysian case study in the 4-year programme on "Blue Communities". This is an interdisciplinary programme aimed at capacity building among the researchers from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, United Kingdom and Vietnam for sustainable interaction with marine ecosystems.
- Appointed as member of Selection Committee for Global Young Academy, 2017-2019



https://globalyoungacademy.net/hcgoh/

- •Organised the event on Project 6 Regional Workshop on Public Health and Environment, in conjunction with University Exeter, 25 26 Mar 2019.
- Event organiser for the Workshop on Netmap Analysis, 4 Aug 2019, Kuala Lumpur.
- Organised the Workshop on "Mangrove conservation in the Klang islands through a collaborative management approach", in conjunction with Plymouth Marine Lab., 23 July 2019.



Health survey and poverty research at Pitas District, Sabah, Feb 2020

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lim Yoke Mui

- Currently doing research on cost economics of heritage shop houses and adoption of building information modelling technology in construction.
- Was appointed to the Penang State Government Appeals Board Panel (2019).

Prof. Dr. Lee Boon Thong

• Was invited as keynote speaker at the 3rd International Conference on Environmental Resources Management in Global Region, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta (14th November 2019) where he presented a paper on "Decontextualisation: some issues in Southeast Asian urban and regional spatial constructs".

Tan Thean Siew

• He is a past chairman of the Malaysian Institute of Planners Northern Branch (MIPNB) and is currently Advisor to the present MIPNB Committee.

Dr Wong Swee Kiong

• Dr Wong attended the 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals: Achieving SDGs: Rising to the Challenge, held in Penang, Malaysia (30-31 July, 2019) and presented a paper on "Socio-economic Impact of Road Connection on the local communities in Telok Melano, Sarawak".





• On 6-7 November 2019, Dr Wong had also attended the Malaysia Sustainable Development Goals Summit 2019 held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

06: COUNTRY REPORT FROM MYANMAR

Daw Hlaing Maw Oo

- She participated as a panelist in the panel discussion 'Strategic Investment and Policy Options to Promote Investment in Yangon Region' at 'Yangon Investment Forum 2019' on 10th May 2019 at Lotte Hotel, Yangon.
- In The Netherlands, she participated in the Smart Cities Study Tour (The Hague, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Helmond & Eindhoven) arranged by the World Bank (June 17-21, 2019).
- On 30th October 2019, she presented the paper "YANGON AS A MARITIME CITY Past Present Future" at the occasion of The 13th World Ocean Forum 2019, Busan, Republic of Korea.



Daw Aye Aye Myint, Dy. Director General from DUHD

Daw Aye Aye Myint

She participated with a presentation UN-Habitat and Partners hold National Consultation Workshop: "Towards a National Urban Policy for Myanmar" in Nay Pyi Taw. It is reported: "The initiation of National Urban Policy Development in Myanmar started in December 2014 with the preparation of the National Urban Policy Note that outlines broad themes and topics to be addressed by a National Urban Policy. Ministry of Construction with the technical assistance from UN-Habitat then produced the Rapid Urban Diagnostic Report, Myanmar (RUDRMYA) which was finalized in February 2016 in consultation with senior advisors and officials at the Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) of the Ministry." (Source:

http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/info/news/20181218_en.html)

Prof. Dr. Nyo Nyo

- •One technical expert from the Institute of Geography, University of Cologne visited Mandalay again for ground checking and mapping the historical buildings in 2019.
- •In 2019, selected articles for a publication were checked for language by the Institute of Geography, University of Cologne.

Prof. Dr. Su Su

- •From 26th to 29th December 2019 in Bagan, in collaboration with Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, she arranged "Conference and Workshop on Deepening and Enlargement of the Network for Safeguarding and Development of the Mekong Basin Countries 2019" with the theme "Pyu to Bagan" so that not only teachers, students and alumni from MTU but also architects and professionals from related disciplines could learn. Around nine teachers from the department and master students attended the seminar and learnt a lot on Architectural History of the sites.
- •In 2019, also as President of ICOMOS Myanmar and Member of Mandalay Heritage Society, she arranged "Myanmar Traditional Architecture and Decorative Arts Program" on 21st -23rd September 2019 and "Architectural Strategies and Restoration Techniques and Skills: Tourist Burma Building Case Studies" also with Turquoise Mountain on 31st October 2019 at Mandalay University so that not only teachers, students and alumni from MTU but also architects and professionals from related disciplines could learn Traditional Architecture and Heritage Conservation.
- From 2016-2020, she arranged teachers and master students to join in the architectural and urban related research works of Mandalay City Development Committee including "Mandalay Building Urban Resilience (MBUR) Project".
- She encouraged one colleague to participate in "SEANNET Thingaza Chaung Mandalay" project (2015-2020).









Prof. Dr. Khin Khin Soe

• Attended the 3rd Environmental Resources Management in Global Region (ICERM) in Jogjakarta, Indonesia where she presented a paper as well as being a keynote speaker (11-12 Nov. 2019).





At the ICERM in Jogjakarta together with ForUm members: Prof. Lee (Malaysia) and Assoc. Prof. Djaka Marwasta (Indonesia) (right photo)

Dr. Zin Mar Than

- Participated in the Workshop Series on "Multiple risks management in extreme events in fast growing (mega) cities in Myanmar" organized by the Yangon City Development Committee and the University of Cologne held in Yangon (14 Jun 2019 and 6 Dec 2019).
- Attended the Drittes Treffen von Alumni-Vereinen aus aller Welt in Bonn "Voneinander lernen miteinander gestalten" (Exchange of ideas and experiences of the national alumni organisations, intensification of regional cooperation, and methods for managing alumni organisations) held in Bonn (Germany) (7 10 March 2019).



- Attended the German Alumni Annual Meeting on "Education and Sustainable Development", held in Yangon (8-10 Nov. 2019).
- Attended the DAAD Asia Network Conference on "How Do Academia and Society Contribute to the SDGs?" held in Yangon (11 13 Nov 2019).
- Attended the 19th Science Council of Asia Conference on "Research and innovation for sustainable development in Asia", held in Nay Pyi Taw (3 -5 Dec. 2019).



Dr. Zin Mar Than

- Research project: Since Nov 2017 till now: "Multiple Risks Management in extreme events in fast growing (mega) cities in Myanmar" led by Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas (Institute of Geography/University of Cologne) jointly conducted by Yangon City Development Committee, Myanmar Environment Institute, University of Yangon.
- Field research: Feb to August 2019 "Institutional Preparedness for Multiple Risks in Yangon, Myanmar" and from March to April 2019: "Risk awareness and preparedness in Yangon".
- Teaching activities: 21-24 May 2019: "Research Methods in Social Science" (block course) at Yangon University of Foreign Languages and on 30 Nov 2019: Teaching at YMCA Hall, organized by Taunggyi University: Data Analysis: The use of SPSS (Statistical Analysis for the Social Sciences) in Empirical Research.

 Paper presentations: 05.12.2019: "Tourism Development in a Nature Protected Environment: Indawgyi Lake Area" at the 19th Science Council of Asia Conference, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. And: 09.11.2019: "Disaster Preparedness of Institutions in Myanmar: Recommendations for Higher Education" at the German Alumni Annual Meeting in Yangon.



Photos: Zin Mar Than



07: COUNTRY REPORT FROM PHILIPPINES

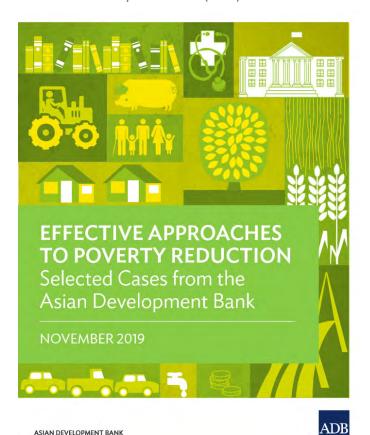
Evelyn Nacario-Castro

 Upon the invitation and support of the Asian Development Bank and The Asia Foundation (the organizers), Ms. Evelyn Nacario-Castro participated in, served as resource person, and presented Mega Cebu at the Forum on Digital Solutions for Livable Asian Cities in San Francisco, California on November 12-14, 2019. The Forum was envisaged as the first of an annual series of events in a long-term collaborative effort to formulate a strategic urban development agenda for Asia. It was also aimed at creating a network of progressive, committed champions and resource persons. The San Francisco Forum was also designed to take advantage of the concentration of experience and expertise in the greater San Francisco-Silicon Valley area in developing digital solutions for potential adaptation and application in Asian cities and to draw on relevant Asian experience with technological innovation in cities. The two and a half-day agenda featured six highly interactive sessions and a study visit through which participating representatives of cities, firms, incubators, accelerators, academic institutions, and think-tanks from different countries interacted. The six sessions included: (1) a framing discussion on livable cities and technology; (2) systems approaches to coordination and planning; (3) agile service delivery; (4) risk resilience; (5) accountability and citizen engagement; and (6) financing emerging technologies.



Imelda Baleta

- She co-published a number of publications with ADB (see in the publication's session).
- Among these was, for instance, the comprehensive report "Effective Approached to Poverty Reduction" of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).





 Source: https://www.adb.org/sites/defa ult/files/publication/540611/a pproaches-poverty-reductioncases-adb.pdf

Rhea Lyn Dealca

• She has been involved in projects such as the development of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance of Butuan City, but it hasn't been approved yet. Most of her works are on land tenure security and property rights.

Director of Projects and Administration, Foundation for Economic Freedom Philippines

After working with the UN-Habitat/Global Land Tool Network in Nairobi, Kenya in 2015, Rhea Lyn Dealca returned to the Philippines where she believes she can make the greatest impact.

As a geodetic engineer, she has spent more than 10 years working for the government, including being a part of an interagency project that introduced reforms to land administration and management in the Philippines.

Rhea Lyn has also worked as a land tenure consultant for a land governance project supported by the United States Agency for International Development and the Australian Agency for International Development. She is a licensed environmental planner and real estate broker.



Source: https://www.xyht.com/surveying /rhea-lyn-dealca/

08: COUNTRY REPORT FROM THAILAND

Assoc. Prof. Monsicha Bejrananda, Asst. Prof. Kitapatr Dhabhalabutr & Asst. Prof. Pornnarong Channuwong

They were awarded a research grant from the National Research Council of Thailand on "Guidelines for managing environmental impacts of secondary tourism province policy with economic valuation: a case of Burira".

Asst. Prof. Kitapatr Dhabhalabutr

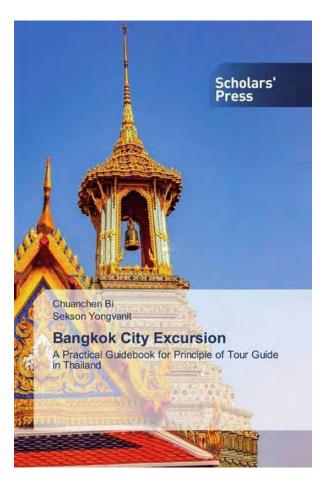
- He has been granted a research funding from Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperative to work on "The feasibility study on KK land investment and the appropriate development for Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives" (2020).
- He was recently appointed as the Director of Urban and Regional Planning Programme (Master degree) at the Faculty of Architecture, Khon Kaen University.



KKU-CP ALL No single use plastic and co-working with SUN Thailand University network which received the ISCN Award

• Prof. Dr. Sekson Yongvanit

- •He published together with Indonesian colleagues about Mt. Sleman (see in the publication's session).
- Together with his student and colleague Dr. Chuanchen Bi and help from further colleagues, Ajan Sekson published an excursion guidebook on Bangkok. In the announcement, it is said: "This is a guide that outlines a tour of some of the most interesting areas of Bangkok. It starts and finishes at Siam BTS Sty Train Station and involves some walking as well as using many of the public transport services available in Bangkok. If you are visiting Bangkok for only a very short time, then this guide may enable you to get the most from your time in the city. Obviously, visitors will have different priorities during their visit and so the guide is designed to assist with 'getting around' while leaving the actual 'activities' to be chosen by the visitors themselves. For those who have more time in Bangkok, then this guidebook will give an outline of what there is to see and do and give you the opportunity to return to some of the sites for a lengthier visit at your own leisure."



• Coincidentially on Bangkok Suvannabhumi International Airport, Prof. Sekson and his wife met Prof. Kraas on 22 September 2019 – what an unexpected nice meeting of global citizens travelling ...



09: COUNTRY REPORT FROM VIETNAM

Dr. Le Thi Thuy Ha



- She was involved in several social housing projects namely the project on "Affordable Housing Study in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam" (for International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank in 2020); and "Establishment of 2021-2030 comprehensive social housing policy in Vietnam" a project by the Ministry of Construction of Vietnam in cooperation with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) (2019-2020).
- She was the Project Manager of "Research on integrated urban project models to respond to climate change, propose an urban development model in the Mekong Delta in accordance with changes of natural ecosystems and climate change, towards sustainable development",: Concretize Governmental Resolution 120/NQ-CP dated November 17, 2017. (2019-2020).
- Dr. Le Thi Thuy Ha has conducted many intensive courses on "Green growth cities, smart cities and climate change response in urban development" as well as "Managing urban development towards sustainable development" to civil servants in 20 provinces in Vietnam (2019-2020).
- She presented a paper at the Conference on "Urban green growth in Vietnam initial results and practical implementation", organised by Ministry of Construction (2019).

Dr. Ta Quynh Hoa

• She established a joint master programme in Construction Project Management and Structure Engineering with National University of Taiwan (NTU).



Meeting with the Board of Directors of NTU, Taipei (March 2019)



• She attended the 15th International Urbanization Conference on "Urban futures: critical transformation in Asian cities", Ho Chi Minh City (27-30 November 2019).





Dr. Le Thu Hoa

- She is involved with the project on "Developing the framework and solutions to restructuring the industry and trade sectors towards green growth, response to climate change in Vietnam" (Ministry of Industry and Trade and National Programme #1806/QD-BCT (2019 2020).
- Le Thu Hoa attended numerous international conferences such as 10th International Conference on "Socio-economic and environmental issues in development", held in Viet Tri, Vietnam (May 2019); 15th IFEAMA Conference on "Innovation management for the sustainable and inclusive development in a transforming Asia", held in Kyoto, (June 2019); and the 15th International Conference on "Humanities and Social Sciences" (IC-HUSO 2019), held in Khon Kaen, Thailand (November 2019).





10th International Conference on "Socio-economic and environmental issues in development", Viet Tri, Vietnam (May 2019)





15th International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (2019), Khon Kaen

10: COUNTRY REPORT FROM GERMANY

Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas

Exkursion to Thailand and Myanmar 2019

Field excursion "Urban Tourism in Thailand and Myanmar" (5.-18. September 2019)

The excursion was conducted in cooperation between the Universities of Cologne, Khon Kaen, Ajan Prof. Dr. Pornnarong Charnnuwong, and Mandalay, Prof. Dr. Nyo Nyo.

Against the background that tourism in Southeast Asia has massively developed over the last 20 years, the excursion wanted to explore recent developments. Many new destinations and a wide variety of different offers and forms of tourism have been established. New investors and forms of management have emerged, new huge tourism-related infrastructure has been built. New concepts, e.g. of community-based tourism, try to empower local communities to take their share in growing tourism-related business. Moreover, new cross-border connections are triggering the rapid expansion of border towns, new routes and the development of new tourism destinations.

The excursion focused on established and emerging urban tourism destinations in Thailand and Myanmar and led the international group from the universities from Cologne and Khon Kaen from Bangkok to Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai to Mae Sai. After crossing the border between Thailand and Myanmar, the group went from Tachileik to Kengtung, from there to Taunggyi to Mandalay.



In Mandalay: Excursion group of Master students with Prof. Dr. Nyo Nyo, University of Mandalay, and Prof. D.r Frauke Kraas









- The international group of more than 30 Master students from the universities of Khon Kaen/
 Thailand and
 Cologne/Germany intensively discussed recent urban and touristic developments in Northern Thailand and Eastern Myanmar.
- Ajan Prof. Dr.
 Pornnarong
 Charnnuwong and colleagues from the University of Chiang Mai excellently introduced the historic and recent urban developments ini Northern Thailand.
- After Thailand followed Myanmar, meeting colleagues in Kengtung and in Mandalay – all were spoilt by warm hospitality and care!
- Thank you, our dear colleagues, very much, khob khun maak kha and dschi zu tin ba de shin!

IN MANDALAY...





Prof. Dr. Tabea Bork-Hüffer

- Tabe Bork-Hüffer works on how practices and power relations shape spaces and societies, especially in relation to three interconnected processes: digitisation, mobilities, and urbanisation. Throughout the last 15 years Tabea Bork-Hüffer has worked on particularly quickly changing regions in Southeast and East Asia (Singapore, Malaysia, China) as well as Central Europe (Austria, Germany). Her work as geographer is characterised by an interdisciplinary outreach, and a focus on cross-sectional topics.
- She went on excursion with Master students from the University of Innsbruck to Singapore and Malaysia, meeting there also ForUm colleagues ...



 Have a look at her research blog on digitisation, mobilities and urbanization. See: /Transient Spaces, https://www.transient-spaces.org/blog/



 Tabea leads the ASEA-UNINET research project with the title "The Making of Transient Urban Spaces in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR)", which is financed by the ASEA UNINET and OeAD from 2020-2022.

11: RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY FORUM MEMBERS

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