



### *Hybrid public seminar*

## **Climate Change, Mobility and Human Rights: *'Slow onset' environmental change and displacement in the Mekong Region***

24 November 2022 (9:00 – 16:30 ICT)

Alumni meeting room, 12th Floor, Faculty of Political Science Building 1 (Kasem Utthayanin Building),  
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Co-organizers: Center for Social Development Studies (CSDS), Chulalongkorn University;  
Chulalongkorn University UNESCO Chair in Resource Governance and Futures Literacy; Raoul  
Wallenberg Institute Regional Asia Pacific Office; and Office of the United Nations High  
Commissioner of Human Rights

### **Introduction**

The connection between climate change and peoples' mobility is increasingly recognized in academic and policy circles, and popular media. Most visible are the impacts of disasterous events such as flooding on forced displacement, but slow onset environmental changes such as sea level rise and changing seasonal weather patterns are nowadays also crucial in shaping human mobility (or 'environmental migration') in various ways. In slow-onset processes, the changing climate intersects with other ongoing economic and social development activities and their associated environmental impacts which influence situations of vulnerability, for example the construction of large hydropower dams. As a result, there is significant debate on how to understand the relationship between pre-existing conditions, slow-onset climate change and human mobility. This lack of consensus has implications for law and policy, as well as responses on-the-ground.

Climate change poses threats to human rights, including the right to life, the right to health, the right to shelter, and the right to food, and many others amplifying the impacts of structural inequalities and injustices. There is a growing recognition within human rights literature, international and national law, and among practitioners, of the connection between environmental change including climate change, mobility and human rights. These studies are now establishing a framework for determining the duties of states, and the entitlements of rights-holders. Governments in mainland Southeast Asia are increasingly making commitments and policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation, yet human mobility due to 'slow-onset' climate change seems to be less acknowledged and addressed.

This full day hybrid public seminar will address the following questions, with a focus on mainland Southeast Asia.

- How are climate change, people's mobility and human rights connected?
- What is the experience on the ground?

- Is current law and policy adequate to address emerging vulnerabilities, especially regarding ‘slow onset’ environmental change?
- What are the actionable policy and on-the-ground approaches to protect and promote human rights?
- What are the implications for ‘loss and damage’ claims and climate justice?

## Agenda

Time	Session
8:30 - 9:00	Registration
9:00 - 9:15	<p><b>Welcome remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Thanapan Laiprakobsup, Vice Dean, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University</li> </ul>
9:15 – 10:15	<p><b>Session 1: Exploring the relationship between ‘slow onset’ climate change, human mobility and human rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pia Oberoi Senior Advisor on Migration and Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</li> <li>• Carl Middleton Director, Center for Social Development Studies, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University</li> </ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danang Nizar Programme Officer, Raoul Wallenberg Institute Regional Asia Pacific Office</li> </ul>
10:15 - 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 - 12:15	<p><b>Session 2: Grounded experience of slow-onset environmental change and mobility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dayoon Kim Research Associate, Stockholm Environment Institute-Asia, Gender, Environment, and Development research cluster</li> <li>• Kanokwan Manorom (online), Associate Professor, Mekong Sub-region Social Research Center (MSSRC), Ubon Ratchathani University</li> <li>• Paritta Wangkiat Editor, MekongEye</li> <li>• Tek Vannara Director, NGO Forum on Cambodia</li> <li>• Danny Marks (pre-recorded)</li> </ul>

	<p>Assistant Professor of Environmental Politics and Policy, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pyone Myat Thu Researcher, Asian Research Centre for Migration, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University</li> </ul>
12:15 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 14:30	<p><b>Session 3: State of law, policy and research in Mekong Region on slow-onset environmental change, mobility and human rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Richter Regional Migration, Environment and Climate Change Specialist, UN Migration (IOM)</li> <li>• Vu Ngoc Binh Senior Adviser, Institute for Population, Family and Children Studies (IPFCS) under the Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology Associations</li> <li>• Sypha Chanthavong Lecturer and Program Director, Faculty of Law, National University of Laos</li> <li>• Mizan Bisri (online) Assistant Professor, Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University, Japan</li> </ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fransiskus Tarmed Manager for Research, Communication, and Dialogue Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Southeast Asia Regional Office</li> </ul>
14:30 – 14:45	Break
14:45 – 16:15	<p><b>Session 4: [Roundtable panel] Priorities and strategies towards slow-onset environmental change, mobility and human rights in the Mekong Region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reni Juwitasari Research Associate, Asian Research Center for International Development (ARCID), School for Social Innovation, Mae Fah Luang University</li> <li>• Outhai Soukkhy Northern Agriculture and Forestry College</li> <li>• Van Pham Dang Tri (Online) Vice Director, DRAGON-Mekong Institute, Cantho University</li> <li>• Oudom Ham Regional Policy Coordinator, Inclusion Project, Mekong Regional Water Governance Program, Oxfam</li> <li>• Nguyen Ngoc Lan</li> </ul>

	<p>Faculty of Law, Dai Nam University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kritsada Boonchai Thai Climate Justice for All network</li></ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Ly Quoc Dang Researcher, Mekong Delta Development Research Institute, Can Tho University</li></ul>
16:15 – 16:30	<b>Concluding remarks by the organizers</b>