



# **ASEAN Forum 2018: Environmental Sustainability in ASEAN**

Sydney Southeast Asia Centre & Sydney Environment Institute

5 October 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

## **Sydney Southeast Asia Centre**

*The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is forging Australia's relationship with one of the world's fastest growing regions by educating students and building new partnerships with academics and governments based on research excellence.*

*With more than 400 academics across six faculties and three schools working on and in Southeast Asia, the University of Sydney has one of the highest concentrations of regional expertise in the world.*

# Overview

## Environmental Sustainability in ASEAN



Now in its sixth iteration, this year's ASEAN Forum, co-presented by the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre and the Sydney Environment Institute, explores the challenges of balancing environmental sustainability and economic growth in the ASEAN context.

The Forum brings together leading academic thinkers, practitioners and policy-makers to discuss and debate how ASEAN countries can better protect common environmental goods; the role of leaders in negotiating the tensions between environmental sustainability and economic growth; and the wider implications of creating and maintaining sustainable practices for the region's forests, oceans and air.

# Program

Law School Foyer, Sydney Law School, The University of Sydney

Time	Session	Details
11.45am	<i>Registration and coffee and tea on arrival</i>	
12.00pm	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Professor Michele Ford</b> Director, SSEAC
12.15	<b>Keynote</b> <i>Ecosystems and enforcement: what can we learn from the Southeast Asian experience?</i>	<b>Professor Lorraine Elliott</b> The Australian National University
1.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
2.00pm	<b>Individual papers</b> <i>Protecting common environmental goods and maintaining sustainable development in ASEAN</i>  Chaired by <b>Professor David Schlosberg</b> , Director, Sydney Environment Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr Rini Astuti</b>, National University of Singapore</li><li>• <b>Dr Manuel Solis</b>, The University of Adelaide</li><li>• <b>Associate Professor Geoff Morgan</b>, The University of Sydney</li></ul>
3.00pm	<b>Panel discussion</b> <i>Balancing economic growth and environmental sustainability in ASEAN</i>  Chaired by <b>Dr Natali Pearson</b> , Deputy Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr Catherine (Cat) Dorey</b>, Fish &amp; Fisheries Science &amp; Policy Campaigns</li><li>• <b>Dr Arunima Malik</b>, The University of Sydney</li><li>• <b>Dr Pichamon Yeophantong</b>, UNSW Canberra</li></ul>
4.00pm	<b>Closing remarks and wrap-up</b>	<b>Professor Bill Pritchard</b> The University of Sydney
4.15pm	<b>Afternoon tea</b>	
5.00pm	<b>Event ends</b>	

# Keynote Address



**Professor Emerita  
Lorraine Elliott,**  
Department of  
International Relations,  
The Australian National  
University

Lorraine Elliott is Professor Emerita in the Department of International Relations at The Australian National University. Over the last 20 years she has published extensively on global and regional (Asia Pacific) environmental governance and ethics, green economy and valuing nature, human security, climate change and migration, transnational environmental crime, and Australian foreign policy. Professor Elliott has worked with several research and policy institutes in Southeast Asia, including the Institute of Strategic and International Studies in Malaysia, the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, and the Thailand Institute of Justice. She is also Lead Faculty with the Earth System Governance program and non-resident Senior Fellow with the Asia Research Institute at the University of Nottingham. Professor Elliott has just completed a three-year term as Chair of the Academic Council on the United Nations System.

Ecosystems and  
enforcement:  
what can we  
learn from the  
Southeast Asian  
experience?

ASEAN – the term is used here to capture the formal institution, individual member states, and Southeast Asia as a region – faces a range of complex environmental sustainability challenges. The scholarly and policy literature often focuses on (i) the limitations that ASEAN faces in instigating or sustaining regional cooperation or (ii) ways that ASEAN can learn from experience elsewhere in meeting these challenges. This keynote explores examples of sustainability regulation and practice that either have their genesis within the Southeast Asian experience or that have been locally adapted to generate lessons learned that are now being paid attention by policy-makers and communities of practice elsewhere. In showing how these have the potential to respond to challenges of scale and local adaptation, it also offers some critical thoughts on the co-production of (sustainability) knowledge and the science-policy interface.

# Individual Papers

## Protecting common environmental goods and maintaining sustainable development in ASEAN



**Dr Rini Astuti**  
Asia Research  
Institute, National  
University of  
Singapore

Rini Astuti is a Research Fellow at Asia Research Institute. She is part of a multidisciplinary team researching transboundary environmental governance commons in Southeast Asia. Her current research focuses on the emerging peatland governance apparatuses in the Southeast Asia region and its implications for the mono-agricultural sector both on the large scale and for smallholder plantations. Dr Astuti previously worked as a Research Fellow at RSIS in Nanyang Technological University and as a Climate Change Program Coordinator at the United Nations Development Programme Indonesia. She has published articles relating to forest governance, climate change mitigation and land politics in numerous journals such as: *Journal of Peasant Studies*, *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, *Environment and Planning A*, and *Third World Quarterly*. She has also published opinion editorials and commentaries on broader environmental issues through numerous publication outlets.

Assembling  
forest-peatland  
commons in  
Indonesia to  
address  
transboundary  
haze in  
Southeast Asia

Central to the Southeast Asian transboundary haze problems is the conversion of Indonesia's peatlands to agricultural estates. Land acquisition for forest industries and small scale farmers' engagement with boom crops have transformed how peatlands have been exploited in the last decades. In response to heightened international and domestic pressures to address transboundary haze, new assemblages of peatland protection and restoration (policies, new institution, practices, and expert knowledge) are emerging under President Joko Widodo's administration. Drawing on an empirical study of a community forestry implementation situated on a peatland forest in West Kalimantan, this presentation argues that a new form of 'land communing' is emerging in Indonesia. New assemblages of actors, techniques, and knowledge re-arrange access and ownership rights to forest-peatland in the way that serve both community's and environmental interests by facilitating the co-existence of subsistence and commercial productions.



# Protecting common environmental goods and maintaining sustainable development in ASEAN



**Dr Manuel P.S. Solis**  
Adelaide Law School,  
The University of  
Adelaide

After almost two decades as a lawyer in the Philippines and working as a legal and policy adviser to multilateral financing and development institutions such as the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme, Dr Manuel Solis decided to join the Australian legal academy as a Lecturer in the University of Adelaide Law School in 2015. He is also a Visiting Faculty in the University of Sydney Law School in 2016 and 2018. Dr Solis serves as the University of Adelaide's Designated Contact Point to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Adelaide Law School's Indigenous Student Liaison Officer. Dr Solis was a member of, and legal adviser to, the Philippines Delegation and granted a party or negotiator status in the 22nd and 23rd Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in 2016 and 2017.

Climate and ocean change in the South China Sea: The role of ASEAN in reframing the narrative from contestation to consensus-building and cooperation under the Paris Agreement

The South China Sea (SCS) is one of the world's most contested sea areas with competing territorial claims from 6 coastal and seafaring states (China, including Taiwan, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam) with five being members of ASEAN. Currently, the discourse is dominated by security concerns and maritime entitlements under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and yet the SCS faces serious sustainability challenges. For this reason, the paper explores a novel approach, as it seeks to reframe SCS transnational discourse from one of disputes to that of consensus building and cooperation under the Paris Agreement for a robust SCS. It moves beyond existing legal and international relations analysis that has been limited to the merits of territorial claims and potential geopolitical outcomes of disputes under UNCLOS. In the process, the paper investigates the role of ASEAN in promoting SCS sustainability utilising the approaches under the international climate change legal regime to reframe the existing SCS narrative.

# Protecting common environmental goods and maintaining sustainable development in ASEAN



**Associate Professor  
Geoff Morgan**  
Sydney School of  
Public Health, The  
University of Sydney

The health  
burden due to  
air pollution in  
Southeast Asia

Associate Professor Geoff Morgan has more than 25 years experience in epidemiological research, as well as environmental health policy and education. He specialises in the use of spatial epidemiological techniques to investigate environmental health risks using routinely collected health data linked to socio-demographic factors and environmental exposures. The results of his research have been translated into environmental health and health services policy. Associate Professor Morgan's current work includes: epidemiological studies into the effects of long term exposure to air pollution on health; health impact assessment of source specific air pollution including fire smoke, wood heaters and energy generation; the relation between the urban environment and health.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to one quarter of the world's population, yet it suffers around one third, or 2.2 million, of the world's 7 million premature deaths each year from ambient (outdoor) and household (indoor) air pollution. Severe haze events from forest and peat (biomass) fires in Southeast Asia have become more intense and frequent in recent years and these events, as well as air pollution and non-fire sources (such as fossil fuel combustion and road and industrial dust), are major sources of air pollution. The main source of household air pollution in Southeast Asia is the use of kerosene and solid fuels such as wood in polluting stoves, open fires and lamps, as well as outdoor air pollution permeating indoors, especially during severe haze events. More than 40% of the world's population still do not have access to clean cooking fuels and technologies in their homes. Women and children are most at risk of household air pollution. We urgently need to improve our understanding of the respective contributions of air pollution from fire and non-fire activities to develop effective air pollution mitigation policies in Southeast Asia. Collective regional action to monitor air pollution and implement evidence-based policies and interventions is required to reduce the large health burden due to air pollution.



# Protecting common environmental goods and maintaining sustainable development in ASEAN



**Professor David Schlosberg (Chair)**  
Director, Sydney Environment Institute,  
The University of Sydney

David Schlosberg is Professor of Environmental Politics in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney, and Co-Director of the Sydney Environment Institute. He is known internationally for his work in environmental politics, environmental movements, and political theory - in particular the intersection of the three with his work on environmental justice. He is the author of *Defining Environmental Justice* (Oxford, 2007); co-author of *Climate-Challenged Society* (Oxford, 2013); and co-editor of both *The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society* (Oxford 2011), and *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Theory* (Oxford 2016).

Professor Schlosberg's current research includes work on climate justice - in particular justice in climate adaptation strategies and policies, and the question of human obligations of justice to the nonhuman realm. He is also examining the sustainable practices of new environmental movement groups – in particular their attention to flows of power and goods in relation to food, energy, and sustainable fashion. And he continues with theoretical work at the interface of justice, democracy, and human/nonhuman relations in the Anthropocene.



*A student goes to school wearing a mask to protect him from the smoke that blankets the city of Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan. Photo by Aulia Erlangga/CIFOR.*

# Panel Discussion

## Balancing economic growth and environmental sustainability in ASEAN

Can growth ever be green? Our panel of experts will examine how ASEAN countries are grappling with this increasingly urgent question, and the extent to which leaders within ASEAN can ensure that economic growth takes environmental sustainability into account. Failure to seriously consider these questions is already having repercussions throughout Southeast Asia, with consequences that reach far beyond the economic. Analysis of supply chain assessments, for example, indicates a link between deforestation and malaria incidences, raising both environmental and public health concerns. Doubts also exist about the effectiveness of environmental governance mechanisms in the region. Is sustainable development an unachievable goal in Southeast Asia, or is there cause for cautious optimism?



*Slash and burn in Laos. Photo taken by Shankar. S via Flickr.*

# Balancing economic growth and environmental sustainability in ASEAN



**Dr Catherine Dorey**  
Fish & Fisheries  
Science & Policy  
Campaigns

Dr Catherine (Cat) Dorey has been working on fisheries and seafood sustainability for 15 years, primarily with Greenpeace, and in the past year as an Independent Advisor. Dr Dorey works with NGOs, industry, governments, and academics to provide up-to-date analysis of current and emerging science and policy development for fisheries management, sustainable & equitable seafood sourcing practices, and most recently fish welfare. Dr Dorey is also a regular guest lecturer and public speaker on fisheries and aquaculture issues, including for the Law, Policy and Sustainability Unit at the Sydney Law School. Dr Dorey's mission is to draw together the best wisdom from the fields of marine ecology and conservation, permaculture, human rights, and animal rights to bring greater understanding and protection of all life within, and at the edges of, our oceans.



**Dr Arunima Malik**  
School of Physics, The  
University of Sydney

Dr Arunima Malik is a Lecturer at ISA, School of Physics and the Sydney Business School. Prior to joining the University of Sydney, Dr Malik has held a range of administrative, research and teaching positions. Arunima's research interests include full supply-chain sustainability analysis of introducing new industries in an economy, triple bottom line and footprint assessments, and hybrid life cycle assessments. She has analysed the economic, social and environmental impacts of potential biofuel industries in Australia. Additionally, she has quantified the drivers of a change in global energy use, carbon dioxide emissions and nitrogen emissions using input-output based structural decomposition analysis (SDA). Dr Malik's work involves manipulating global and sub-national trade data-sets to assess the environmental, social and economic consequences of human consumption. She analysed carbon emissions embodied in Australia's health care sector using comprehensive supply chain models.

# Balancing economic growth and environmental sustainability in ASEAN



**Dr Pichamon Yeophantong**  
Department of  
International Relations  
and Development,  
UNSW Canberra

Dr Pichamon Yeophantong is an ARC DECRA Fellow and Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Development at UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy. She leads the HASS Environmental Justice and Human Rights Project, and the Responsible Business Lab. Previously, Pichamon was an ASEAN-Canada Senior Fellow at the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, as well as a Global Leaders Fellow at Princeton University and the University of Oxford. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in China and Southeast Asia on the impacts of Chinese investment in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, and has also consulted with a range of organisations, including the Overseas Development Institute and the African Progress Panel. Dr Yeophantong's work appears in such publications as Pacific Affairs, Chinese Journal of International Politics and Asian Survey.



**Dr Natali Pearson (Chair)**  
Deputy Director,  
Sydney Southeast Asia  
Centre, The University  
of Sydney

Dr Natali Pearson is Deputy Director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre at the University of Sydney and co-editor of Perspectives on the Past at New Mandala. Her research focuses on underwater cultural heritage in Southeast Asia. Dr Pearson holds a Master of Museum Studies (2013, University of Sydney); a Master of Arts in Strategy and Policy (2006, UNSW Canberra); and a Bachelor of Arts (Asian Studies) with Honours Class One in History and Indonesian Studies (2002, UNSW Sydney). She is an alumni of the Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Studies and the Asialink Leaders Program. Prior to completing her PhD, Dr Pearson worked in Asia-focused defence and international security roles in the Australian federal government.

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