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EEPSEA newsletter

Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia

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32nd EEPSEA Bi-Annual Workshop

Seventy Southeast Asian researchers, resource persons, and guests gathered in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 16–19 November to mark the 32nd EEPSEA Bi-Annual Workshop. The workshop featured plenary sessions on climate change, payments for ecosystem services, and behavioral economics. Dr. Tran Van Hoa of Victoria University in Australia discussed how carbon emission reduction could affect the economic growth of Vietnam. Dr. Andrea Cattaneo of Woods Hole Research Center in Massachusetts, USA, discussed the policy issues associated with the implementation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).

Dr. Robert Hearne, a Visiting Fulbright Fellow at Kasetsart University, Thailand, and Associate Professor at North Dakota State University, USA, shared data from his research project in Costa Rica, which assessed public preferences for biodiversity and scenic beauty in the context of an environmental services payment scheme. Dr. Nancy Olewiler of Simon Fraser University, Canada, an EEPSEA resource person of long standing, gave a presentation on the role of behavioral economics in economic analysis and policy prescriptions. Dr. Olewiler encouraged EEPSEA researchers to continue to include the concepts of behavioral economics in their research in an effort to influence policy.

EEPSEA Partners with SEARCA and SEAMEO RETRAC to Tackle Climate Change Issues

EEPSEA, together with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education and Organization Regional Training Center (SEAMEO RETRAC), held the 2nd International Training on Responding to Changing Climate from 9–11 November, 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand. This year's training focus was Knowledge-based Strategies in Managing Risks in Agriculture and Environment.

More than 20 government planners and technical staff involved in agriculture and rural development, natural resource management, and in disaster and risk management at national, regional and local levels, attended the training.

EEPSEA sponsored the attendance of eight participants to the course and provided two resource persons—Dr. Canesio Predo of the Philippines and EEPSEA Director Herminia Francisco.



Participants at the 2nd International Training on Responding to Changing Climate.

EEPSEA Conference Session on the Economics of Biodiversity at the ASEAN Conference for Biodiversity 2009

EEPSEA hosted a session on the economics of ecosystem biodiversity at the recently concluded ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity held at Republic Polytechnic in Singapore from 21–23 October, 2009. The session discussed the importance of incorporating economic principles in efforts to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem functions. It focused on the synergies exhibited by the various components of ecosystems and biodiversity, and highlighted the direct connection between ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and economic development.



Dr. Rodelio Subade at the ACB2009 Conference.

Three EEPSEA researchers, Dr. Rodelio Subade of the University of the Philippines Visayas, Dr. Nguyen Van Song of Vietnam's Hanoi University of Agriculture, and Ms. Beria Leimona of ICRAF, presented their EEPSEA projects. Dr. Arief Yusuf, EEPSEA Senior Economist, also presented the EEPSEA climate change vulnerability map at the Climate Change Session.

Climate Change Vulnerability Map Launched in Cambodia

On 11 September 2009, EEPSEA launched a Climate Change Vulnerability Map in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with the Cambodia Development Research Forum. More than 140 participants from various government and non-government organizations in Cambodia attended the launch. His Excellency Thuk Kroenvutha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment and Chairman of the National Climate Change Committee, opened the launch. In his speech, he stated that Cambodia takes the impacts of climate change very seriously and that the government has already initiated work to address Cambodian climate change issues. His Excellency was pleased to learn that EEPSEA's vulnerability map of Cambodia would be added to Cambodia's climate change literature and he hoped that the results of the mapping exercise would prove to be useful.



HE Thuk Kroenvutha at the climate map launch in Cambodia.

The participants were very engaged during the launch and offered suggestions on areas where adaptation analysis could be conducted as well as how adaptive capacity indicators could be improved and interpreted. The value of the climate change vulnerability map as a tool for local level adaptation planning was highlighted during the discussion and this is an area that participants encouraged EEPSEA to contribute to.

Dialogue on Current Environmental Issues with Lao PDR Policy Makers

The Government of Lao PDR requested that EEPSEA discuss critical environmental issues with Lao policy makers. On 3–4 September, 2009, EEPSEA Director Herminia Francisco, together with five former and current EEPSEA alumni, engaged policy makers on a two-day information exchange session in Vientiane.

EEPSEA Senior Economist Dr. Orapan Nabangchang shared her work with EEPSEA and how her research results were used to develop policies in Thailand. EEPSEA alumni, including Dr. Vu Thanh Phoung of Vietnam, shared his team's experience of implementing payments for ecosystem services (PES) in Vietnam. Ms. Dolly Nepomuceno from the Philippines imparted her agency's findings on the use of an environmental user fee system. Drs. Adis Israngkura of Thailand and Mohd Shahwahid of Malaysia shared their research in the areas of mining valuation and land use change.

EEPSEA Director Tackles Haze as a Regional and Global Issue

The Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia, hosted the 3rd Dialogue on Transboundary Haze Pollution from 4–6 October, 2009, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The dialogue sought to continue and sustain an existing platform for discussing the haze amongst experts, think tanks, and non-governmental organizations in the region.

SIIA and ISIS consider EEPSEA one of the regional organizations with a primary interest in haze issues so they requested that EEPSEA Director Herminia Francisco join a panel of experts to discuss the haze as a regional and global issue. The discussion highlighted the need to assess the health impacts of the haze in the region. As a result, EEPSEA will soon announce a call for proposals related to the health impacts of the haze on a regional scale. Interested researchers should check the EEPSEA website for updates.

EEPSEA Co-Sponsored Singapore Economic Review Conference 2009

The *Singapore Economic Review* (SER), the leading economics journal in Asia, organized its 3rd biennial conference from 6–8 August, 2009, in Singapore. As one of the major partners in this conference, EEPSEA convened a session that focused on environmental economics in Southeast Asia and featured four of its researchers. Rosalina Palanca presented the findings of her EEPSEA research project entitled "Value of Life Estimates." Pham Thai Hung and Ligu Lin gave a talk on the following papers: "The Impact of Trade Liberalization on Industrial Pollution: Empirical Evidence from Vietnam" and "Pollution Taxation in China: The Impacts of Inspections." EEPSEA Senior Economist Arief Yusuf presented his EEPSEA research entitled "On the Distributional Effect of Carbon Tax in Developing Countries."

Book on Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Launched in Manila



REAP launching of the book.

The Resources and Environmental Economics Foundation of the Philippines (REAP) held its 4th annual meeting at Traders Hotel in Manila from 9–10 July, 2009. Around 94 participants from different academic institutions, government agencies, local government units, non-government groups, and international agencies attended the meeting. Two EEPSEA-funded research reports were presented. EEPSEA

Director Herminia Francisco gave a talk on the Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping Report.

In the same meeting REAP launched *Readings on the Economics of Climate Change and Natural Resource Management*. EEPSEA provided REAP with support to publish this book. The book contains selected papers presented during past REAP meetings. This is the second book that EEPSEA has sponsored under REAP. A few of the studies featured were also EEPSEA-funded.

In-Country Training Activities

Over the past three years EEPSEA has begun to rely on its alumni pool of experts to support its in-country training and small research grant programs in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Lao PDR, where EEPSEA senior researchers and alumni have served as the main resource people. This strategy of relying on local expertise is set to continue in the coming years and is part of the process of institutionalizing local efforts to build capacity in environmental economics research.

Lao PDR Researchers' Training Course

To start the second round of the capacity building initiative for environmental economics research in Lao PDR, EEPSEA offered the Overview of Environmental Economics Course, including lectures on Research Survey Design, from 30 June–4 July, 2009. EEPSEA Senior Economist Orapan Nabangchang and EEPSEA Director Herminia Francisco delivered the lectures for the course. The Water Resources and Environment Agency (WREA) administered the course and 25 participants from eight different agencies in Lao PDR participated.

EEPSEA Teachers' Training Course in Lao PDR and Thailand

EEPSEA conducted Thailand-Lao PDR Teacher Training from 11–14 July, 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand. The training course was modeled on the three-week teachers' course that EEPSEA pioneered in Vietnam. For this Thailand-Lao PDR course, six participants came from Lao PDR and 22 from Thailand.

The course resource persons consisted of EEPSEA researchers and alumni. In addition to the Thai resource persons, EEPSEA Director Herminia Francisco also gave lectures on Forestry Economics and the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation. Associate Professor Siriporn Sajjanand, Director of the Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Economics Studies, School of Economics, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, the institution that received the training grant, coordinated the course.

Teacher Training Course in Environmental Economics, Cambodia

The Cambodia Teacher Training Course was held at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) from 15–17 July, 2009. Mr. Chhinh Nyda, a current recipient of an EEPSEA research grant, coordinated the training course.

The Cambodia course targeted faculty members in colleges and universities who could be encouraged to engage in research. There were 28 participants on the course, from eight universities and colleges in Cambodia. Three participants came from two NGOs, the Environment and Agriculture Development and the Culture and Environment Protection Association.

The resource persons were Dr. Asa Sajise and Prof. Ma. Angeles Catelo, EEPSEA alumni from the University of the Philippines Los Banos.

Papers Presented and Attendance at International and National Conferences

Herminia Francisco: facilitated the dialogue between Europe and Asia on Agricultural Research and Climate Change in Brussels, Belgium, 15–18 December, 2009.

Herminia Francisco: presented EEPSEA's Climate Change Vulnerability Map at the 2009 East Asian Seas Congress in Manila, Philippines, 23–27 November, 2009.

Herminia Francisco: "Climate Change Impacts in Southeast Asia: What Maps and Case Studies Show" at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Seminar Series, held at the National University of Singapore, Bukit Timah Campus, 17 September, 2009.

Arief Yusuf and Herminia Francisco: "Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping for Southeast Asia" at the Climate Insecurities, Human Security, and Social Resilience Conference, held in Singapore, 26–28 August, 2009.

Orapan Nabangchang: "Private Contributions Towards the Provision of Public Goods: The Conservation of Thailand's Endangered Species" 5th National Conference of Economists organized by the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), held in Bangkok, Thailand, 16 October, 2009.

Orapan Nabangchang: "Climate Change Vulnerability in Southeast Asia" at the ISDR-ESCAP Consultation Meeting on Coastal and Climate Change Hazards, held in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–18 September, 2009.

Bui Dung The: presented EEPSEA activities in Vietnam at the Vietnam Environmental Economists Association Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam, 26 September, 2009.

Publications

Journal Publications

Budy Resosudarmo and Arief Yusuf: *Survey of Recent Developments*. Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies © Routledge Taylor & Francis Group. 2009.

Research Reports

Alice Joan Ferrer: *Evaluation of Fisheries Management Options for the Visayan Sea, Philippines: The Case of Northern Iloilo*. 2009-RR5.

Nguyen Mau Dung: *Pollution Control Options for Handicraft Villages: The Case of Duong Lieu Village in the Red River Delta, Vietnam*. 2009-RR4.

Vo Thi Lang, et al: *Environmental Consequences of and Pollution Control Options for "Tra" Fish Production in Thotnot District, Cantho City, Vietnam*. 2009-RR3.

Jaimie Kim Bayani, et al: *Economic Vulnerability and Possible Adaptation to Coastal Erosion in San Fernando City, Philippines*. 2009-RR2.

Akhmad Saïdy and Yusuf Azis: *Sea Level Rise in South Kalimantan, Indonesia—An Economic Analysis of Adaptation Strategies in Agriculture*. 2009-RR1.

Margaret Calderon: Towards the Development of a Sustainable Financing Mechanism for the Conservation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces in the Philippines. 2008-RR10.

A Policy Brief is also available at www.eepsea.org for each of the above listed Research Reports.

New Technical Reports are also available for download from the EEPSEA website.

Career Achievements and Research Impacts

Xuxuan Xie was awarded a fellowship in the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge. He will be working on topics related to ozone control in China.

Antonia Corinthia Naz started her appointment as graduate professor at the University of the Philippines Diliman. She teaches Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis in the university's Masters in Public Administration Program.

Udi Udiansyah's research on coal mining was cited in Indonesia's leading national daily, the *Jakarta Post*. Udi's recommendation on implementing resource rents to curb illegal coal mining practices in Indonesia was cited as a measure to counter the externalities that coal mining brings to communities.

Rosalina Palanca and Germelino Bautista's research findings on groundwater depletion in Cagayan De Oro, Philippines, was used to develop a municipal proposal to assess the feasibility of implementing a system of metering and permits for groundwater use. The *Mindanao Gold Star Daily* also featured an article on this in its 1 July 2009 issue.

Forthcoming Events and Announcements

EEPSEA Impact Conference: February 26-27, Hanoi, Vietnam

EEPSEA will be holding an Impact Conference cum alumni homecoming for its researchers, trainees, and partners. The goal of this conference is to bring together past and current EEPSEA researchers, trainees, and participants to showcase their works wherein EEPSEA support might have contributed in the process of accomplishing the work or effecting change. Please visit www.eepsea.org for details of the conference.

Regional Short Course in Environmental and Resource Economics: 12 April–3 May, Bangkok, Thailand

EEPSEA will be holding a three-week intensive course in environmental and resource economics from 12 April–3 May, 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. The course intends to prepare researchers and university lecturers to teach this subject, to conduct research, and to respond to requests for analysis from government agencies. For additional information, please visit the EEPSEA website at www.eepsea.org.

Econometrics for Environmental and Resource Economics: 20–22 May, 2010, Philippines

This short-course will provide an overview of econometric techniques that are useful for the analysis

of natural resource and environmental economics problems. The course will include a brief review of econometric and statistical concepts (ordinary least squares, maximum likelihood, and associated assumptions). Two types of econometric methods will be explored – discrete and qualitative choice models and impact evaluation. As background, participants are expected to have intermediate econometrics training that includes multiple regression and maximum likelihood methods and familiarity with software for econometric analysis.

Priority will be given to EEPSEA researchers but course is open also to Southeast Asians with economics training and who are doing research on environmental issues.

An application letter indicating why the course will be useful to the applicant and a CV must be submitted to rmamiit-coburn@idrc.org.sg on or before 28 February, 2010.

EEPSEA's 33rd Bi-Annual Workshop: 24–26 May, Philippines

EEPSEA will be holding its 33rd Bi-Annual Workshop in Manila, Philippines, from 24–26 May, 2010. Proposals for presentation at this meeting are welcome and should be sent to eepsea@idrc.org.sg on or before 1 February, 2010.

Health Economics Course: 27–29 May, 2010, Philippines

The course is jointly offered by EEPSEA and WHO. It will discuss tools relevant to valuation of health impacts and evaluation of health interventions and provide an overview of epidemiological concepts and tools relevant to economic impact assessment. Priority will be given to those who are interested in doing research on health economics. Please refer to the EEPSEA call for proposals on this topic at www.eepsea.org

An application letter indicating why the course will be useful to the applicant and a CV must be submitted to rmamiit-coburn@idrc.org.sg on or before 28 February, 2010.

Fourth World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economics: 28 June–2 July, Montreal, Canada

The Fourth World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists (WCERE) will be held in Montreal, Canada, from 28 June–2 July, 2010, on the campus of the Université du Québec à Montréal.

The congress is a joint initiative of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) and the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE). Please visit www.wcere2010.org for additional information.

Call for Cross-Country Proposal on Assessing the Health Impacts of Haze Pollution

EEPSEA is pleased to announce a call for concept proposals on the theme of “Valuing the Health Impacts of Haze Pollution.” Researchers from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia are invited to submit concept proposals. For additional information, please visit the EEPSEA website at www.eepsea.org.