



Call for Papers

The 7th International Conference on International Relations and Development (ICIRD) “Disruption, Challenges and Resilience in Contemporary Southeast Asia” [Virtual and Onsite] 22-23 July 2022 Chiang Mai, Thailand

The 7th International Conference on International Relations and Development (ICIRD 7) “Disruption, Challenges and Resilience in Contemporary Southeast Asia” will focus on the social and political dimensions of the unprecedented crisis, changes, challenges and opportunities faced by Southeast Asian societies in recent years, with a particularly emphasis on several key themes, including the Covid 19 pandemic; resource governance and conflict; climate change and environmental degradation; social and political conflict and crisis; and geopolitics and security in Southeast Asia and the wider Indo Pacific region.

From 2020 onwards, the Corona virus pandemic has not only claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, but has also caused massive economic, social and political disruption across the region. Lockdowns and restrictions in the movement of people, including tourism, have slowed down national economies, disrupted flow of goods and services, and greatly impacted investment, domestic consumption and employment, pushing millions of people into extreme poverty and livelihood insecurity. While the pandemic has disproportionately affected socially disadvantaged groups, such as ethnic minorities and migrant workers, it has also provided chances to fundamentally rethink established structures, e.g. health and education systems across Southeast Asia, and has highlighted the resilience of traditional and indigenous livelihood systems to disruptions posed by the crisis.

Besides facing particular challenges due to the pandemic, over recent years, diverse groups of people in Southeast Asia have also experienced new patterns of marginalization and exclusion due to expanding resource extraction and development of large-scale infrastructure across the region, driven by undemocratic political systems, exploitative development policies, and increasing economic integration. In particular, China’s expansive “Belt and Road Initiative” and related infrastructure construction, e.g., railway development, the construction of hydropower dams, pipelines, and water diversion projects, has contributed to unsustainable resource exploitation, environmental degradation and conflict across the region. Moreover, restrictive conservation policies and forestry law have triggered or exacerbated conflict in different Southeast Asian countries, e.g. in Thailand or Vietnam, particularly between ethnic communities and the state.



In coming years, resource competition and conflict are expected to further increase due to worsening impacts of climate change in the region. Across Southeast Asia, intensifying industrial activities, the burning of fossil fuels, agriculture, and deforestation, have been contributing to profound alterations of the climate. Rising temperatures and the increase of extreme weather events are posing further health, economic and social risks to local populations across region, threatening biodiversity, food and water security, the enjoyment of human rights, and ultimately, regional stability. Over the past 5 years, millions of people across the region have been displaced by weather-induced natural disasters, e.g., in the Philippines, Myanmar and Indonesia.

Over recent years, the Covid-pandemic and climate change impacts have exposed and further increased existing inequalities in the region, and heightened concerns in relation to human rights and democracy in Southeast Asian countries. Autocratic governments across the region continue to restrict democratic and civic space, to violate fundamental freedoms, and to suppress political opponents, e.g. in Cambodia, the Philippines, or Thailand. In particular in Myanmar, the February 2021 military coup has plunged the country into a deep political and humanitarian crisis, with state security forces violently suppressing the pro-democracy movement, killing and displacing thousands of civilians, many of them seeking shelter in neighboring Thailand.

Authoritarian trends and democracy decline, as well as economic and environmental challenges currently facing the region need to be understood in relation to geopolitical competition in the Indo-Pacific region, which has been emerging as a center of strategic power struggles between the two biggest economies in the world, the United States and China. The intensifying Sino-American tensions have affected Southeast Asian countries economically and politically, and are posing risks for regional security, with China's geopolitical ambitions and investment in the region challenging the sovereignty of Southeast Asian countries. At the same time, the US has increased efforts to regain economic and strategic power in the region, e.g. through providing assistance to ASEAN countries in combatting the coronavirus pandemic.



Conference Themes

The 7th ICIRD invites scholars, researchers, graduate students across disciplines to submit the papers in the following themes

- COVID-19, Disruptions & Resilience
- International Relations in Indo-Pacific & Sub-regional Governance
- International Security & Regionalism
- Political Disruption, Conflict Transformation and Peace
- Ethnic Politics, Conflict and Reconciliation
- Human Rights, Human Security & Sustainable Development
- Migration, Forced Displacement & State Policies
- Agrarian Transformation, Resource Governance & Labor Regime
- Climate Change, Conflicts & Livelihood Security
- Social Movement, Populism, Democratic Challenge
- Political Ecology & Human and Non-human Relations
- Media & Digital Rights & Governance
- Gender and Sexual Representation
- Urban Space, Urban Livelihood & Economic Justice
- Women, Production & Reproduction
- Transnationalism, Transboundary Investment (BRI), SEZs
- Border Studies

Abstract & panel proposal submission

Interested participants should submit an abstract of not more than 300 words, along with keywords and a short biography (name, affiliated institution and work position). A panel proposal should be not more than 500 words. Panel descriptions should contain a 300-word abstract for each presenter.

Individual abstracts and panel proposals should be sent by 30 April 2022. Deadline for papers submission is 30 June 2022. Roundtable discussion submissions will also be considered.

Registration & fee

Registration and fee information will be later announced.

For further information, please contact the ICIRD 7 secretariate at icird.cmu@gmail.com.



About the ICIRD Network

Launched in 2010, the ICIRD Knowledge Network is a platform for academic cooperation among five of Thailand's foremost providers of research and higher education, namely the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, the Master of Arts program in

International Development Studies (MAIDS), Chulalongkorn University, the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP), Mahidol University, the Regional Center for Social Sciences and Sustainable Development (RCSD) of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University and the School of Social Innovation, Mae Fah Luang University. These five institutions are loosely affiliated in a knowledge sharing network in order to promote Thailand and its universities as a venue for international scholarly exchange and academic networking among renowned scholars around the world. ICIRD International Conference is organized every two years.

