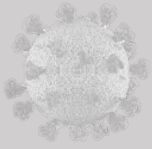




NEWSLETTER

December 2021 Issue #21 Network Activities and News



View into the city of Kuala Lumpur from Ampang Viewpoint @Ravindran

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Editorial
- 2 Celebrating Success
- 3 Recent Events
- 4 Country Reports
- 5 Publications



Forum for Urban Future
in Southeast Asia

Network of Southeast Asian and German Experts

editorial



With Joni, the 4-legged friend that we took care of at the faculty during pandemic.

Preparing Newsletter#20 at the end of 2021 stirs mixed emotions, considering the recent global challenges stemming from one of the worst pandemics. The post-pandemic period remains speculative and uncertain.

Across the globe, societies have coped with varying levels of lockdown and a range of personal and professional challenges. ForUm members are no exception.

Still, ForUm Newsletter#20 brings encouraging news about the individual professional achievements and acknowledgments of our friends and colleagues. It also highlights the scaling up reflections of sustainable development in the Philippines during the pandemic (thank you Dr Boy!), with a special mention of the collective bonding activity during the ForUm session at the German Geographical Congress (“GeoWoche”) in October.

ForUm Newsletter #20 also features a compilation list of selected publications published by ForUm friends and colleagues, totaling 47 scientific publications. Many of these contributions were published in top-tiered journals by reputable publishers.

In these challenging times, our efforts to come together and stay bonded are essential for mutual support. This is how I feel with each of the contributions by the members to the successful preparation of this newsletter. Reading ForUm Newsletter is always a pleasure, a motivation to me, and I hope that you feel the same. Thank you, ForUm friends and colleagues and enjoy reading.

Hong Ching
 Kuala Lumpur
 December 2021

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Forum for Urban Future
in Southeast Asia

Network of Southeast Asian and German Experts

#GeoWoche2021



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Geographie | DGfG



Forum for Urban Future
in Southeast Asia

Programme of the ForUm sessions at the 2021 German Geographical Congress ("GeoWoche") (6-9 October, 2021)

[All clock times are in CEST, Germany time]

Session 1: 6th Oct 2021 (Wednesday 0755 am – 0930 am)

- 0755 am : Welcome address by Prof. Frauke Kraas
0800 – 0820 : Dr. Rini Rachmawati (Indonesia), "Smart city implementation in Indonesia"
0820 – 0830 : Q & A
0830 – 0850 : Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Hieu (Vietnam), "From urbanization to regionalization: old lessons and new challenges in the Hochiminh city region"
0850 – 0900 : Q & A
0900 – 0920 : Dr. Dexter S. Lo, Gina S. Itchon, & Jefferson R. Vallente Jr. (Philippines), "XU GRiD Project: the role of academe in building resilience"
0920 – 0930 : Q & A

(End of session for the day)

Session 2: 7th Oct 2021 (Thursday 0800 am – 0930 am)

- 0800 – 0820 : Daw Hlaing Maw Oo (Myanmar), "Inclusive, smart and sustainable urban future for Myanmar?"
0820 – 0830 : Q & A
0830 – 0850 : Dr. Khoo Suet Leng (Malaysia), "Creative city as an urban development strategy: case of George Town, Penang"
0850 – 0900 : Q & A
0900 – 0920 : Dr. Ta Quynh Hoa (Vietnam), "Social housing for workers in the industrial zones in Vietnam - models and feasible solutions towards sustainable development: case studies in Hanoi city"
0920 – 0930 : Q & A

(End of session for the day)

Session 3: 8th Oct 2021 (Friday 0800 am – 1030 am)

- 0800 – 0820 : Ms. Le Thi Thuy Ha (Vietnam), "Developing the urban network in the Mekong Delta - Vietnam responding to the climate change"
- 0820 – 0830 : Q & A
- 0830 – 0850 : Dr. Lim Yoke Mui (Malaysia), "Sustainable management of built heritage: two pronged strategies for George Town World Heritage Site"
- 0850 – 0900 : Q & A
- 0900 – 0920 : Prof. Dr. Khin Khin Soe (Myanmar), "Coping with the urban impacts of Covid-19: People's perceptions and experiences"
- 0920 – 0930 : Q & A
- 0930 – 0950 : Dr. Monsicha Bejrananda (Thailand), "Spatial assessment for Khon Kaen Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)"
- 0950 – 1000 : Q & A
- 1000 - 1020 : Dr. Djaka Marwasta (Indonesia), "The nexus of periurbanization and urban spatial planning dynamics in Yogyakarta, Indonesia "
- 1020 – 1030 : Q & A

(End of session for the day)

9th Oct 2021 (Saturday 0800 am – 1140 am)

Session 4 (0800 – 0930)

- 0800 – 0820 : Dr. Le Thu Hoa (Vietnam), "Climate change mitigation opportunities in Hanoi City: 2030 projection"
- 0820 – 0830 : Q & A
- 0830 – 0850 : Dr. Zin Mar Than (Myanmar), "Governance aspects in disaster risk reduction in townships of Yangon City"
- 0850 – 0900 : Q & A
- 0900 – 0920 : Dr. Kitapatr Dhabhalabutr (Thailand), "Future housing development for Smart City: case study of Khon Kaen City, Thailand"
- 0920 – 0930 : Q & A

Session 5 (0930 – 1140)

- 0930 – 0950 : Dr. Goh Hong Ching (Malaysia), "A post COVID-19 prospect of urban future in Malaysia"
- 0950 – 1000 : Q & A
- 1000 – 1020 : Prof. Dr. Seng Aung (Myanmar), "Observation on urban - related risks in Kachin State, Myanmar"
- 1020 – 1030 : Q & A
- 1030 – 1050 : Dr. Sukamdi (Indonesia), "Making places: the case of urban slums in Yogyakarta"
- 1050 – 1100 : Q & A
- 1130 – 1140 : Closing remarks by Prof. Frauke Kraas

success stories

Academic Promotion



- Dr. Djaka Marwasta from Universitas Gadjah Mada was promoted from Associate Professor IVa to Associate Professor IVb. Dr Djaka's research expertise include Earth Sciences/ Population And Economic Resource/ Human Geography And Environmental Geoscience

- Miss Daw Moe Moe Hlaing Myint who was trained as an engineer and urban planning was promoted to a Director for Urban and Regional Development Division under Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) in May 2021



- Mrs Tin Tin Kyi served as Government Staff in Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) since 1990 and started as Sub-assistant Engineer in Engineering Department (Building) from 1990 and promoted gradually up to Deputy Director at there. After that, she moved to Urban Planning Department as Director and was promoted to Deputy Director General after one year.

success stories

Academic Promotion/Acknowledgments



- Professor Dr Zin Nwe Myint was promoted to be the Head of the Geography Department, University of Yangon on 9 July 2021

Acknowledgement

- Associate Professor Dr Goh Hong Ching was featured for her contribution to Ocean Sciences on International Women's Day, British High Commission Kuala Lumpur, March 2021.
- She was special mentioned for contribution to mangrove conservation on Commonwealth Day, British High Commission Kuala Lumpur, March 2021 (<https://www.astroawani.com/berita-malaysia/malaysia-wins-praise-executing-commonwealth-goals-286951>).
- Later in September, she was invited to have an online discussion with Minister of Science UK on Climate Change, Environment and Communities for 'Good Development Series', Newton Fund and Global Challenges Research Fund.



TRIANGULAR" PERSPECTIVE: DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES in PHILIPPINES

Anselmo B. Mercado, June 29, 2021

In the Philippines are development scenarios which are complex, multi-faceted, Interrelated, Interacting, Interdependent, overlapping. The challenges, short-term and long-term are really formidable. At the risk of being simplistic, the "triangular perspective" is presented herein, first, the *macro*, and second, the *micro*.

I. Perspectives at the Macro Level:

Three major aspects dominate the Philippines Development scenario --



The UN New Millennium Declaration, envisioning a "world without poverty", has aimed at "Development" as "Human development now and through future generations" ... a "life-enhancing integrated process involving: 1) Sound & viable economy, 2) Responsible governance, 3) Social cohesion/Harmony, 4) Ecological integrity", which should be put into actuality with effective, well thought programs and actions by a tripartite key interdependent actors ...



The overriding fundamental values inspiring the MDGs are three-fold ...



Pope Paul VI has strongly articulated "Development" as: *"to enable men and women to do more, to know more, and to have more in order to be more."* (*Populorum Progressio*, Pope Paul VI, 1967). Furthermore, the Encyclical, so called the "Magna Carta on Development", points out that such development of people and communities are sine-qua-non to PEACE. *"The new name for peace is development."* *"The hungry ...cry out to the people blessed with abundance ... and asks each and every man to hear his brother's plea and answer it lovingly."* To end poverty is the responsibility of all. *"We cannot help the poor without, at the same time, helping to build a culture of peace... Neither can there be a culture of peace without helping the poor to alleviate poverty."* *"No peace without development. No development without peace."*

For the past decades, the development issues continue to challenge the world so much that succeeding Popes (John Paul II, *Sollicitudo rei Socialis* 1987, Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* 2009, and Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium* 2013, and *Laudato Si* 2015) have re-echoed the same themes for development.

The issues of inequality are obvious -- the imbalance of ownership of wealth, resources and social voice in decision-making. This can also be viewed "triangularly" ... (left triangle -- 3 sectors; inverted middle triangle -- wealth and resources corresponding to 3 sectors; right triangle -- along with development, a broader ownership and distribution of wealth and resources and social-political.)



The "development formula" has been evolving. Significant elements or aspects have been added over the decades to the formula which currently has a general acceptance, as follows.



The perspectives above-mentioned are viewed at the *macro* level.

II. Perspectives at the *Micro* Level:

At the *micro* level, the World Neighbors (WN) (with at least 30 years of experience in developing countries) has put three Goals in their "People-Centered Agriculture Improvement" programs ...



The WN program principles are interacting and interrelated in order to achieve each goal, namely: 1) Achieve early recognizable success; 2. Start slowly, start small; 3. Limit the technology; 4) Use small-scale experimentation; 5) Develop multiplier effect.

These are akin to the triangular process of ...



Similarly, the concept of "Behavior" offers three interrelated aspects ...



A positive Behavior change happens if people would 1) learn, know and acquire better skills; 2) be willing to change and improve; and 3) have the means (resources) to perform the Desired Behavior for the better.

At this point, the *ABCD+E* approach to development comes to mind. The *Asset-Based-Community-Development and Empowerment* offers a paradigm shift, a more positive approach than the traditional “problem-oriented” approach which focuses on problems and needs of people and communities resulting in an image of “problem tree” with its interrelated roots and branches.

In contrast, the *ABCD+E* focuses on resources that people and communities have, which are identified, merged and blended (starting internally, and supported by external resources) producing a “map of assets” (*ABCD+E* triangle of assets).



If we search for problems, we will find them, if we search for solutions, we will find them. the fact is people already know the problems and where they are, they have grown-up with them. We have not done enough to search for solutions or we have left them to “bahala na” = “come what may” = “it is our fate”. We have been locked down for so long with the “problem-oriented tree” that has bad fruits or none at all, that we need to sow the *ABCD+E*, to let it grow and become a “fruitful tree”.

The classic model of an *ABCD+E* is a COOPERATIVE organized by people. The philosophy, principles and mechanics of a COOP have all the elements of the macro triangular perspectives discussed in Part I. Genuine COOPs address the issues of, strongly promotes and applies reduction of poverty, more equitable distribution of wealth and resources, all inclusive human development, the common good more than the private good, behavior change for the better, people empowerment, human development, ecology,

partnerships, sustainable development. The “COOP formula” consists of the following main elements:



The COOP way is an *ABCD+E* way, a self-help-mutual-help way, a people internal-empowerment way. Successful and genuine COOPs are internally-driven, more than externally-dependent on resources.

Regarding agriculture development, this is certainly a priority issue in the Philippines given the macro development challenges -- to increase farm productivity and raise the quality of life of rural and farm families, and for the country and people to be food secure. Acting Socioeconomic Planning Sec. Karl Kendrick T. Chua has pointed out: “The agriculture sector has not shown improvements commensurate to the funding support it has received (Sept 2020). The RP Stat Authority has confirmed this -- Agriculture sector growth, a pathetic 1.2% (2019 Econ Report).

Scholar Fermin D. Adriano (22 Oct 2020) has cited: “IMF’s projections ... Vietnam to overtake RP in per-capita, GDP (Projected 2020 Vietnam per capita income = \$3,497 vs. RP \$3,372 ... In 5 yrs, Vietnam’s per-capita income = \$5,521 vs. RP \$4,805 ...). “Vietnam is emerging as the next “Asian tiger” ... RP a “Laggard.” He adds: The reason being Vietnam prioritizes the AGRICULTURE sector beyond rhetoric. Vietnam “walks the talk”. In RP, leaders & politicians, “just talk & talk”.

To “Get Agriculture Moving”, Arthur Mosher has the a “triangular” perspective with the three dimensions: 1. ELEMENTS of AGRICULTURE (i.e., Production Process, b) Farmer, c) Farm, d) Farm Business); 2. ESSENTIALS for AGRI DEV (i.e., a) Markets for Farm Products, b) Constantly Changing Technology, c) Local Availability of Supplies, Equipment & Facilities, d)

Production Incentives for Farmers, e) Transportation System, & Good Roads, f) Peace, Law & Order). These essentials, "will move Agriculture forward. Without any one of them, it will not." (Mosher); 3. ACCELERATORS of AGRI-DEV (i.e., a) Education for Agriculture Development, b) Production Credit, c) Group Action by Farmers (Coops, etc.), d) Improving & Expanding Agricultural Land, & e) National & Local Planning for Agriculture Development.



The FOOD-CHAIN scenario: 1. PRODUCTION -- the primary producers, farmers are the suppliers of food, a great many are small farms and impoverished. Positive effective Interventions should be done to help them analyze their farming systems, to improve production/productivity, and to get better-fairer prices of farm products to improve their well-being, and to help the nation to be food-secure; 2. CONSUMPTION (urban & rural)-- Farm products end-up at this end, the processors, dealers, middlemen and end-consumers. An increasing population is escalating demand for food. There is a need for better food preparations & consumption at more reasonable costs, and also a change in people behavior for a healthier life-style and unnecessary consumerism; 3. ESSENTIAL CHANGES of the FOOD-VALUE-CHAIN (PROCESSING-DISTRIBUTION MARKETING SYSTEM) -- to be more efficient, fairer and for mutual benefits of farmers and consumers.



There are a number of success stories of COOPs (savings-credit, agriculture, schools coops, etc.) which can inspire replication, to mention a few, the First Community Cooperative (FICCO, a finance coop), the National Guthrie Plantation Coop (Oil Palm, Cacao), the Del Monte Employees Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Coop (DEARBC, a pineapple, Cable TV

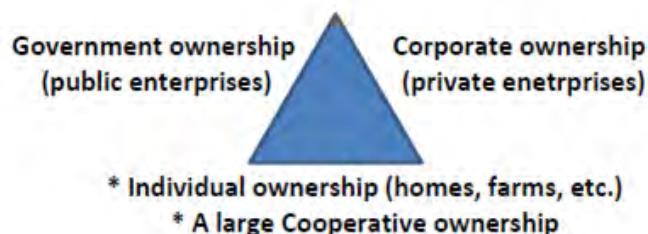
business, water refilling, trucking enterprise, Western Union franchise, housing projects, etc.).

Successful cooperatives are “totally fit” coops which possess three internal characters which provide strengths: 1) Sound Business Management for Economic Strength; 2) Active Membership Participation for Social Cohesion Strength; and 3) Dynamic Organization Leadership for Spiritual-Moral Strength. All these generate empowerment to the coops for social transformation.



The *lumad* communities situation is a particular scenario because of the resources they have been bestowed with (ancestral domains, the *lumad* culture which has withstood the test of times). However, the *lumad* communities have remained economically poor and because of this, they are a special concern. There are laws that protect them, but there are also disturbing scenarios (e.g., encroachments on their lands by non-*lumad* or big businesses, unjust and improper laws to dominate over *lumad* communities disregarding their ownership rights and dignity, and in many cases the selling of lands by their own kind in violation of ancestral domain laws and their culture, etc.).

Finally, the final triangle a portrayal of a “Good Society”, a proper “mix” and balance of:



country report

Germany

Participants

- Professor Dr Frauke Kraas (founded the ForUm expert network in 2005) could, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, certainly not undertake any fieldwork or travels abroad either (though she was allowed, with special permission, to lead an excursion to the Ruhr Area with 20 Master students under strict distancing concept; nobody got ill). Thanks to rapidly growing digital interconnectivity and the determination of all colleagues to stay connected, the strong contacts to the ForUm colleagues in Southeast Asia could be kept well over the entire pandemic period.
- Further German members (from the universities of Innsbruck, Munich and Heidelberg as well as from the university of applied sciences Cologne) could not actively participate this year but will stay connected.



country report

Germany

Research projects

- The German Myanmar research project **“Management of multiple risks of extreme events in fast growing (mega)cities in Myanmar”** (funded since 2017) could make progress even in difficult times. The research project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) under the FONA Research for sustainability programme. A virtual kick-off event took place with many participants. The project focuses on the major five cities in Myanmar: Yangon, Taunggyi, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Mawlamyine. A kick-off meeting took place digitally.
- Since 2019, a German Research Foundation funded research project on **“Driving factors for and societal effects of sea-level rise and delta flooding in the Ayeyarwady Delta (Myanmar) – Lessons from the past for disaster governance in the future”** (DFG) investigated the consequences of climate change-related developments for the large Ayeyarwady Delta, including megacity Yangon east of the delta.
- Also since 2019, the research project **“Education Atlas of Myanmar”** focuses on the analysis of spatial and societal education differences in Myanmar.



Virtual Kick-Off Event
of the BMBF Programme
Sustainable Development of Urban Regions

country report

Germany

Conferences and workshops

- Three digital workshops in January 2021 on “**Urbanisation and Migration in Myanmar and Southeast Asia**” were funded by DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service within the frame of the “Institutional Partnerships Programme” (four years 2020-2023). Many ForUm participants from universities, administration and practical expertise joined actively.



German – Myanmar Collaboration in Higher Education

Universities of Cologne, Yangon and Mandalay

Capacity Enhancement in Teaching, Research and Curriculum Development
Urbanisation and Migration (in Myanmar, Southeast Asia and the World) (UrbMig)

Programme of the fourth workshop (digital) 11 – 15 January 2021

Participants from the Universities of Bago, Dagon, Dawei, Distant Education, East Yangon, Economics, Education, Hinthada, Hpa-an, Ma-ubin, Mawlamyine, Myeik, Patheingyi, Pyaw, Sittoung, Taungtha, Taungtha, West Yangon, Yangon and Cologne

Lead: Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas, together with Dr. Tine Trumpp and Franziska Krachten

- Within the frame of the **German Geographical Congress**, a special workshop on recent processes of urbanization in Southeast Asia could be held – which was very actively visited by ForUm participants.



Special ForUm session on the German Geographical Congress (online); further members participated

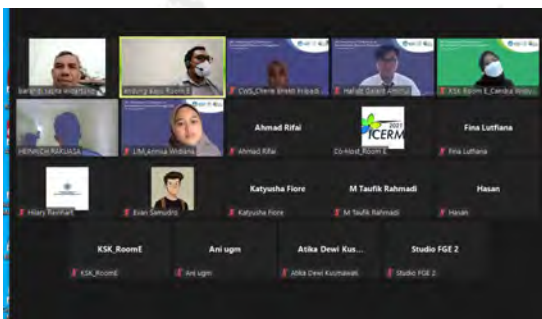
country report

Indonesia



Dr. Djaka Marwasta

Department of Geography,
Universitas Gadjah Mada



Conferences and meetings

- Attended zoom meetings with ForUm members every 2 weeks in Saturday night (Malaysian Time).
- Presented in International Conference on Science & Technology/ICST 2021 on 7-8 September 2021
- Presented in the ForUm Conference at the 2021 German Geographical Congress („GeoWoche“) on 7-8 October 2021
- Presented in the International Conference on Environmental and Resources Management/ICERM 2021 on 1-2 November 2021
- Presented in the International Conference of Humanity and Social Sciences/IC-HUSO 2021 at Khon Kaen University Thailand (ForUm Members) will be hold on 18-19 November 2021

country report

Laos

Participants

- Mr. Thenekham Thongbonh: Mr Thongbonh has retired from his position as director general at the Public Works and Transport Training Institute, Ministry of Public Works and Transportation.
- Dr. Xayaphone Vongvilay: Dr Vongvilay is currently serving administrative appointment as the Vice Dean, at Faculty of Architecture, Souphanouvong University.
- Ms. Saykham Thammanosouth: Mr Thammanosouth is currently the Deputy Director at the Public Works and Transport Training Institute, Ministry of Public Works and Transportation.
- Mr. Chanthasack Bottaphanith: Mr Bottaphanith currently the Deputy Director at the Public Works and Transport Training Institute, Ministry of Public Works and Transportation.
- Dr. Maysi Phommasone: Dr Phommasone is currently the Director, Lao-German Electrical Company.
- Mr. Phomma Veoravanh: Mr Veoravanh has retired from his position as Director General, Department of Water Supply, Ministry of Public Works and Transportation.
- Mr. Sompong Sitthivong: Mr Sitthivong is currently the Director General at Department of Water Supply, Ministry of Public Works and Transportation.

Laos

Conferences

- Dr. Xayaphone Vongvilay participated in the following conference and workshop: -
 - Chair Session on International Conference on Academic Research of Souphanouvong University. December 2021, at Souphanouvong University

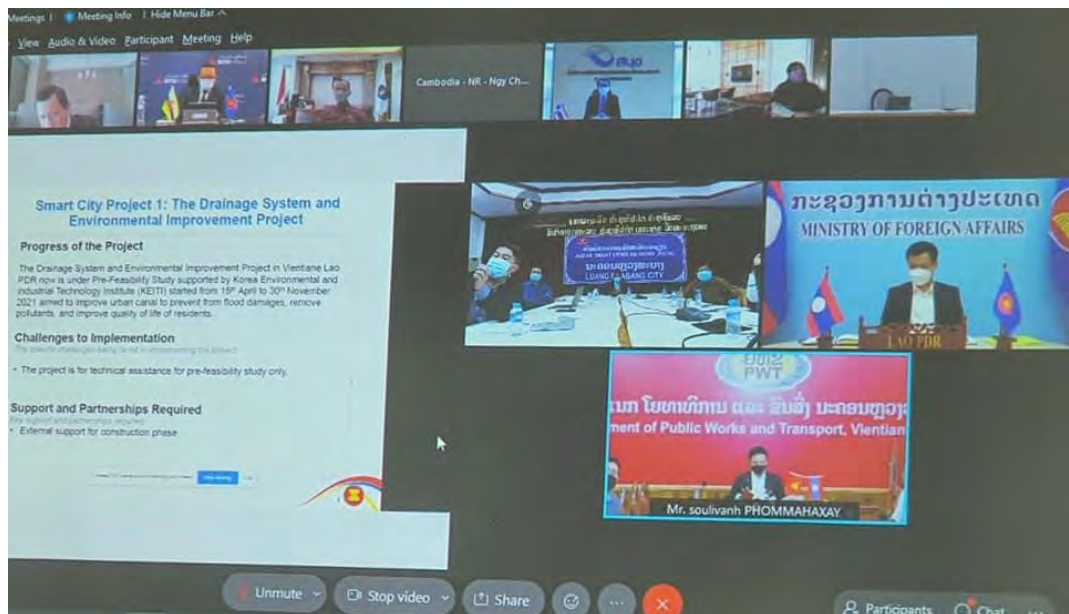


- Workshop about Master Planning Study for Smart City Development in Luang Prabang City, Lao PDR. The cooperation project between Luangprabang City Governer and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd. November 2021.



Laos

- Participating Architectural Education Event Online and Virtual Exhibition, due to the impact of Coronavirus Pandemic 2019. Experience of Virtual Exhibition, Virtual Education Fair. Hosted by the Board of Architects Malaysia (LAM) through its Council of Architectural Accreditation and Education Malaysia (MAPS) 26-31 October 2021.
- Participated in the 4th ASEAN Smart Cities Network Annual Meeting, 30 August 2021 Virtual Conference.




- Participated Online Seminar on the post Covid-19 scenario of Art & Culture collaborations for ASEAN plus three cooperation. To share the experience of the impact of Covid-19 to education sector and tourism industry. Hosting by Mahasarakham University.

country report

Malaysia

Participants

- Professor Dr Lee Boon Thong (first joined ForUm in 2005): Professor Dr Lee remains active in academia by taking up an advisory role to the Nilai University and New Era University College through his appointment as Adjunct Professor and providing mentorship to ForUm members.
- 
- Dr Helena Aman Binti Hashim, Department of Architecture, Universiti Malaya (first joined ForUm in 2007): Dr Helena has been serving for numerous administrative and professional appointments including
 - Head, Department of Architecture, Universiti Malaya, Nov 2020- Jan 2023
 - Board member, Board of Architects Malaysia, 2021-2023
 - Registered Conservator, National Heritage Department, 2021-2023
 - Committee member, ICOMOS Malaysia, 2013- present
 - Mr Tan Thean Siew (first joined ForUm in 2008): Mr Tan who was an active pensioner has fully retired in 2020.
 - Dr Tiun Lin Ta (first joined ForUm in 2010): Dr Tiun has fully retired from academia.
 - Associate Professor Dr Lim Yoke Mui, Universiti Sains Malaysia (first joined ForUm in 2010): Yoke Mui has been very much focusing on quantity surveying work at micro level of urban development.

Malaysia

Participants



- Associate Professor Dr Goh Hong Ching, Universiti Malaya (coordinator- Malaysia) (first joined ForUm in 2010): Hong Ching serves several administrative appointments in 2021.
 - Deputy Dean (Undergraduates), Oct 2021- Dec 2022
 - Taskforce member, Universiti Malaya New Financial System, 2021- 2022; Universiti Malaya Strategic Plan 2021-2025; and Universiti Malaya Transformation Plan- Excel in Research Eminence 2021-2030
 - Action Lab Member, Universiti Malaya Transformation Plan, Excel in Research Eminence 2021-2030
 - Member, New Master program Curriculum Development Committee, Faculty of Built Environment, Universiti Malaya, September 2020- August 2022
 - Member, Membership Selection Committee, Global Young Academy, 2018- present



- Associate Professor Dr Khoo Suet Leng, Universiti Sains Malaysia (first joined ForUm in 2021): Suet Leng serves as Editorial Board Member for Journal of Urban Culture Research which is jointly published by University of Chulalongkorn, Thailand and the Urban Research Plaza of Osaka City University, Japan since 2021 to present.

Malaysia

Research Activities

- AP Dr Khoo Suet Leng is involved in the following research as co-investigator:
 - Socially-Inclusive Public Administration: Revisiting Housing Affordability Concept in George Town World Heritage Site, Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS), 1/9/2019 – 31/8/22
 - Outstanding Universal Value of George Town, Penang: Surviving Covid-19, Korean National University of Cultural Heritage (KNUCH)-UNESCO Chair Research Grant, 24/5/2021-31/12/2021
- AP TPr Goh Hong Ching is involved in the following research as both co-investigator and principal investigator:
 - Nexus Action for Mangroves in Selangor, Malaysia: Protection Through Value Creation for Community-public-private Partnerships (NexAMS), Co-Researcher, 01/05/2020 to 14/12/2022, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)
 - Addressing Challenges of Coastal Communities Through Ocean Research for Developing Economics (accord) - "using Nexus Thinking to Empower Community-based Management of Mangrove Fisheries" Project (NetComFish-Accord), Co-Researcher, 01/10/2019 to 31/03/2022, Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
 - Understanding the Socio-ecological Systems in The Tun Mustapha Park (TMP), Sabah, Malaysia Through the Local Communities' Perspectives, Co-Researcher, 01/09/2019 to 31/12/2021, The Rufford Foundation
 - GCRF Building Capacity for Sustainable Interactions with Marine Ecosystems for Health, Wellbeing, Food and Livelihoods of Coastal Communities, Principal Investigator (PI), 01/01/2018 to 31/08/2022, Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

Malaysia

Conferences

- AP Dr Khoo Suet Leng was invited to attend conference as
 - Invited Plenary Speaker (10 December 2021). Title: 'Culture-led Urban Regeneration: Case of George Town World Heritage Site, Penang' during the Urban Renewal Fund (Hong Kong) 10th Anniversary Conference. Envisioning Good Practices for Socio-Cultural Sustainability in Urban Renewal: Innovations and Inspirations. Organiser: Urban Renewal Fund, Hong Kong, China.
 - Invited Forum Speaker (7 October 2021). Title: 'Creative City as an Urban Development Strategy. Case of George Town World Heritage Site, Penang' during ForUm for Urban Future in Southeast Asia. Conference at 2021 German Geographical Congress. Organiser: German Geographical Society, Institute of Geography, University of Cologne, Germany.
 - Invited Roundtable Speaker (19 November 2021). Title: 'George Town. A City in Transition: Roundtable and Report Launch. Reimagining The Future, Recovering and Building Economic Resilience Based on Cultural Assets.' Organiser: Think City Sdn Bhd, Penang.



GEORGE TOWN
A CITY IN TRANSITION :
ROUNDTABLE AND REPORT LAUNCH

thinkcity

ROUNDTABLE:
**REIMAGINING THE FUTURE, RECOVERING
AND BUILDING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
BASED ON CULTURAL ASSETS**

19 Nov 2021 | 9:00AM
Multipurpose Hall, Think City @ Bangunan UAB, Penang

Panellists:

	Professor Ar. Laurence Loh Principal of ARKITEK LLA		Rosli Nor Penang State Heritage Commissioner
	Dr. Richard Engelhardt Think City Consultant		Mei Tan Founder, Innovatif + / Asia Innovative Agency
	Assoc. Prof. Khoo Suet Leng Lecturer, Universiti Sains Malaysia		Moderator: Dr. Matt Benson Senior Director- Flagship Programmes, Think City

Malaysia

Conferences

- AP Dr Goh Hong Ching presented at the following conferences:
 - Responding to SDGs: Case Study of Tun Mustapha Park, Sabah, Malaysia, 2021 International Conference on Biosphere and Sustainability (ICBS), Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) & Western Philippines University (WPU) (11-12 November 2021)
 - A Post COVID-19 Prospect of Urban Future in Malaysia, ForUm for Urban Future for Southeast Asia at 2021 German Geographical Congress (GeoWoche), German Geographical Society (DGfG) (5-9 October 2021)
 - Hari Konservasi Bakau Antarabangsa, 2021 Forum Webinar Hari Konservasi Ekosistem Bakau Antarabangsa Peringkat Kebangsaan, National Sea Scout Secretariat, The Scouts Association of Malaysia (3 July 2021)
 - Policy for Science and Science for Policy in the Decade to Come in Developing Countries, 2021 11th MARE People and the Sea Conference, Centre of Maritime Research (MARE) (29 June - 02 July 2021)



Malaysia

Subject Matter Expert

- Associate Professor TPr Dr Goh Hong Ching was appointed as a subject matter expert by Malaysia Industry-Government High Technology Group (MIGHT) for the preparation of Smart Melaka Blueprint for State Government of Melaka (July 2021-Mar 2022)

Mentoring

- Associate Professor TPr Dr Goh Hong Ching serves voluntarily as mentor to the Blue Communities Early Career Researchers Network, University of Plymouth, 2020 -2022

country report

Myanmar

Participants

- Daw Aye Aye Myint- Advisor (urban expert), Deputy Director General (Retired.), Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD), Ministry of Construction (MoC); Ph.D. Candidate (University of Cologne)
- Miss Daw Moe Moe Hlaing Myint, an Engineer/ Planner - B.E (Civil), M.Sc. (Urban Environmental Management-AIT)
- Mrs. Thaw Tar Htet Htet Paing- Assistant Director, Union Minister's office, Ministry of Construction, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- Tin Tin Kyi - Deputy Director General, Urban Planning Department, Yangon City Development Committee
- Dr Sabe Pyu Lwin- Deputy Director, Department of Urban and Housing Development, Ministry of Construction, Myanmar
- Dr. Zin Mar Than- Post Doctoral researcher, Institute of Geography, University of Cologne, Germany
- Professor Dr Zin Nwe Myint- Head of the Geography Department, University of Yangon

country report

Myanmar



Daw Aye Aye Myint

Advisor (urban expert), Deputy Director General (Retired.),
Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD),
Ministry of Construction (MoC)

Ph.D. Candidate (University of Cologne)

Teaching/ Capacity Building Activities

- Capacity Enhancement in Teaching, Research and Curriculum Development Program: Urbanization and Migration (UrbMig), German-Myanmar Collaboration in Higher Education, University of Cologne, Yangon and Mandalay, DAAD. Online Training Courses (6-10 December 2021)
- Capacity Enhancement Program: Urbanization and Migration (UrbMig), German-Myanmar Collaboration in Higher Education, University of Cologne, Yangon and Mandalay, DAAD. Online Training Courses (22-27 November 2021)



Workshop/Conference Attendance

- Digital Alumni Meeting on "Building Resilience in Education", DAAD, University of Cologne, German-Myanmar Alumni (4-5 December 2021)
- ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Forum (ASUF) (6-8 October 2021) (Online-partially attended)
- Forum for Urban Future in Southeast Asia (6-9 October 2021) (Online-partially attended)
- NUPP Launch Event: Global State of National Urban Policy 2021, EUKN-OECD NUP Week (25 June 2021) (online)



country report

Myanmar



Miss Daw Moe Moe Hlaing Myint

- Engineer/ Planner - B.E (Civil), M.Sc. (Urban Environmental Management-AIT)

Projects

- Took part as a counterpart for Dala New Town Development Project – Pre-Feasibility Study for Dala New Town Infrastructure which was granted by Ministry of Economy and Finance (Economic Innovation Partnership Program-EIPP)
- Appointed as a Member of the Project Executive Agency (PEA), she is responsible for the Detail designs of electricity, water supply and road for Provision of outside infrastructure for Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (EDCF project) with the Korea consultant team.
- Ceremony of Centennial for Department of Urban and Housing Development (1921-2021)

Teaching activities

Knowledge sharing program for the employees of state and region offices of Department of Urban and Housing Development, Ministry of Construction (Guidelines for Urban Planning)

Field Survey

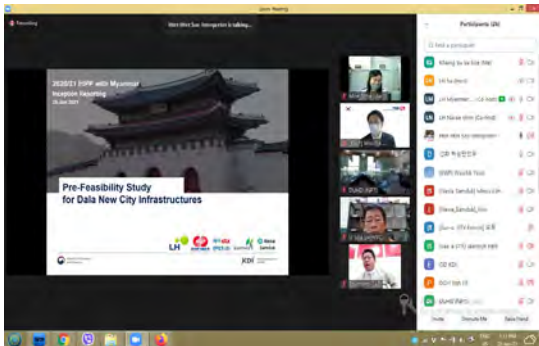
Data collection and interview with Bagan-Nyaung U government official for establishment of Regional Development Plan for Bagan-Nyaung U.

Workshop/Conference Attendance

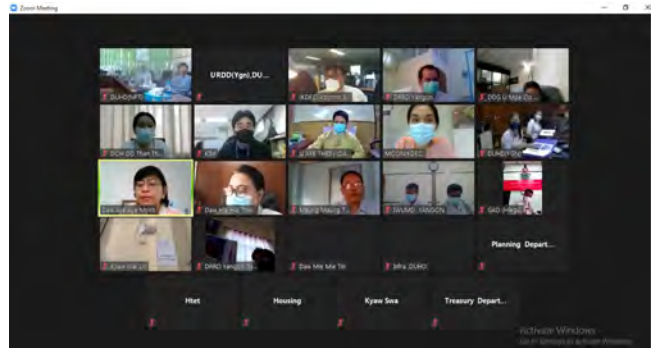
- Attended World Cities Day Virtual event in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon on the 30 October 2021
- Participated in workshop on Urbanization and Migration - in Myanmar, Southeast Asia and the World (Online), 22 – 27 November 2021

country report

Myanmar



Pre-Feasibility Study for Dala New Town Infrastructure



Meeting for Provision of outside infrastructure for Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex



Ceremony of Centennial for Department of Urban and Housing Development (1921-2021)



Field survey in Bagan-Nyaung U

country report

Myanmar



Mrs. Thaw Tar Htet Htet Paing

Position

- Assistant Director, Union Minister's office, Ministry of Construction, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Education

- Master of Development Studies (Yangon Institute of Economics)
- B.A (International Relations)

Working Experiences

- Junior Executive officer, Department of Urban and Housing Development (20.10.2011- 7.5.2015) Staff Officer, Minister's office, Ministry of Construction (8.5.2015 4.12.2019)
- Assistant Director, Minister's office, Ministry of Construction (5.12.2019 up to now)

International Presentation: Forum, workshop, training, seminar

- Smart Cities, Village and Region, Department of Development Geography, Faculty of Geography University Gadjah Mada, Indonesia (6-23, July 2021- Online)

country report

Myanmar



Tin Tin Kyi

Deputy Director General, Urban Planning
Department, Yangon City Development
Committee

Research work

- November 2017 – present: Multiple Risks Management in extreme events in fast growing (mega) cities in Myanmar, which is jointly conducted by Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas, the Institute of Geography, University of Cologne/Germany, Yangon City Development Committee and University of Yangon/Myanmar

International Conference

- German Geographical Congress (GeoWoche 2021) organized by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geographie and Forum for Urban Future in Southeast Asia, 6 - 9 October 2021, Digital Conference, Participants: Frauke Kraas, Prof. Lee Boon- Thong, Khin Khin Soe, Zin Nwe Myint, Zin Mar Than, Tin Tin Kyi, Aye Aye Myint, Hlaing Maw Oo.
- Annual Conference of Scientific Working Group on Southeast Asia and East Asia German Geographical Society (DGfG), organized by the Institute of Geography, University of Cologne and Duisburg-Essen, Bochum and Innsbruck. 25 – 27 June 2021, Digital Conference, Participants: Frauke Kraas, Prof. Lee Boon- Thong, Khin Khin Soe, Zin Nwe Myint, Zin Mar Than, Tin Tin Kyi, Aye Aye Myint, Hlaing Maw Oo.

Capacity Building Enhancement

- “Urbanisation and Migration (in Myanmar, Southeast Asia and the World) (UrbMig) organized by German-Myanmar Collaboration in Higher Education for Capacity Enhancement in Teaching, Research and Curriculum Development, 6-10 December 2021, Digital Workshop (Programme of the sixth workshop), Participants: Lead: Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas, together with Dr. Tine Trumpp and Tin Tin Kyi, Universities of Cologne, Yangon and Mandalay Department of Urban and Housing Settlement (DUHD)

country report

Myanmar



Dr. Sabe Pyu Lwin

Deputy Director, Department of Urban and Housing Development, Ministry of Construction, Myanmar

Conferences

- World Habitat Day and World City Day sessions were attended by online in October 2021.
- Attended collaborative meeting between Department of Urban and Housing Development, Urban Research and Development Institute (URDI) which is my department collaboration with SKL International with the support from the Swedish government's SEDA, the "Symbio City Program" for Urban planning and management courses will continue 2 times for "Training of Trainers (TOT)" by online in 2021. "Symbio" is the Swedish language and meaning is "Sustainable Development". Symbio City Program for Urban planning and management courses are 4-year courses that started in 2018. Which are at the three cities of our country Myanmar which are Dawei City (Southern Myanmar), Kalay (Middle of Myanmar) and Kalaw (Eastern of Myanmar). This course imparts a wealth of urban management knowledges and teaches the concept of Urban Planning and Urban Finance. This training providing training on urban development to Government Officials, University Teachers and NGOs and Native Stakeholders. It was done once every three months for 6 days and a total of four times in one place. There are 45 trainees in this towns and 20 people attended the workshop in Sweden. The participants who attended the workshop in Sweden were attended this TOT course. As a result of this 4-year course, we collaborated with SKL International wrote and published books with English and Myanmar for three cities. In 2020, Kalaw characteristics was researched and in 2021 published Kalaw City Profile Book in collaboration with the SKL International team.



country report

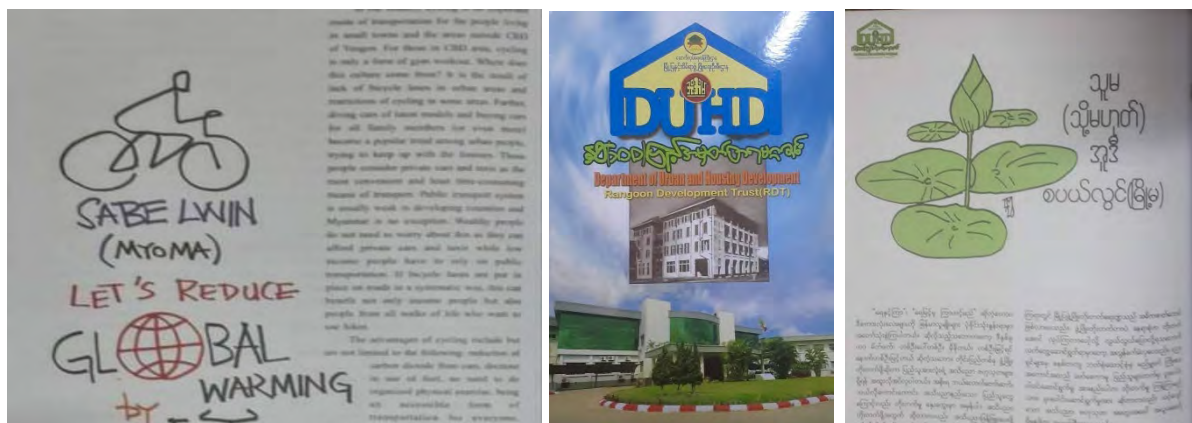
Myanmar



Our URDI collaboration with the SKL International team published 8Books which are Urban Sustainability Review And Strategy 2030 Dawei and Kalaw, Urban Sustainability Review And Strategy 2040 Kalay and Kalaw City Profile by both English and Myanmar Version.

I have written and published the book Symbio City Approach by Myanmar version, which compiles everything in this Symbio City Program. In addition, I have written and published the books of 2011-2020 Urban Research and Development Institute (URDI) with both English and Myanmar languages.

Another I wrote an article about “URDI's History and Ongoing Activities” in our department DUHD's Centenary Magazine with Myanmar Version. And also in that magazine, I wrote a paper in English language about “Let's Reduce Global Warming” which is the benefits of cycling for Green Transportation.



country report

Myanmar

Research project and field research

- November 2017-present : “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.
- Governance aspects in disaster risk reduction in townships of Yangon City
- Critical Infrastructure: Public Preparedness and Cooperation in Yangon/Myanmar

Teaching activities

- Research Methods in Social Science and SPSS at Job-Creation Center for vulnerable group

Workshop/Conference Attendance

- Attended 1st Digital meeting of Southeast Asian Urban ForUm members on 16 January 2021
- Presented a paper on “Critical infrastructure in Yangon in case of disaster: the readiness of providers” Annual Conference of Scientific Working Group on Southeast Asia and East Asia German Geographical Society (DGfG), organized by the Institute of Geography, University of Cologne and Duisburg-Essen, Bochum and Innsbruck. (Digital Conference) on 25 June 2021
- Presented a paper on “Governance aspects in disaster risk reduction in townships of Yangon City” 2021 German Geographical Congress (“GeoWoche”). (Digital Conference) on 9 October 2021
- Presented a paper on “Critical infrastructure in Yangon in case of disaster: the readiness of providers” Conference of the Myanmar Association of Arts and Sciences (MAAS) at the Yangon University, 28 December 2021



Dr. Zin Mar Than

Post Doctoral researcher,
Institute of Geography,
University of Cologne, Germany



country report

Myanmar

Professor Dr Zin Nwe Myint

Head of the Geography Department, University of Yangon



Duties and responsibilities

- Chairperson of the Board of Studies of Geography since 2021
- Chair of the Subject Wise Committee (SWC) for Basic Education Geography Textbooks since 2021
- Chair of the PhD Steering Committee of University of Yangon since 2021 (as a member was since 2012)
- Chair of the PhD Steering Committee of Mawlamyine University (2022)
- Sectary of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science (MAAS) (since 2021)
- Chair of the editorial Board of Universities Research Journal (URJ)
- Member of the editorial board of University of Yangon Research Journal (UYRJ)
- Member of the 4 Rivers Studies Working Committee
- ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE) Alternate National Focal person
- Focal person of AUN-EEC: online Workshop “Citizen Science for Addressing UN SDGs in SEA” (18 April 2022)

Research Projects

- Informal Settlements in Hlaingtharyar of Yangon City (AvH Return Fellowship)
- A cultural heritage and Socio-economic development of Mrauk-U, Rakhine State of Myanmar Urban System of Myanmar

country report

Philippines

Dr Anselmo M. Mercado



- Engaged in a series of webinars-workshops since August 2020 (via zoom) on Re-imagining Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition Amid Covid Times and Beyond- to discuss a “framework” that would address food security issues that include Agriculture Development, Nutrition, the Food-Chain System (producers-consumers linkage), access to food, affordability of food, and food assistance for the neediest.
- Participated in a series of Webinars-Workshops started in April 2021 to engage the youth, schools, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), other groups and institutions on the issues brought forth as a follow-up to the series of zoom meetings. The synthesis of this engagement was meant to be sent to the UN Pre-Food Summit Conference in July and eventually to the UN Food Summit in September 2021.
- Facilitated the break-out group to discuss one of the subthemes that focused on the Food Chain on the May 4, 2021, which highlighted “Pathways” connotes something positive, and there are “WAYS” to move forward despite many challenges that have confronted the Philippines and people for decades, and to the current times amidst Covid pandemic. This prompted the discussion on the “pathways” from Production to Consumption, from Farmers (primary producers) to Consumers, the whole Food Chain (production-processing-marketing-distribution-consumption).



A B. Mercado meeting with prominent leaders

country report

Philippines

- Involved in Promoting, Applying the ABCD+E and Sharing Some Success Stories. The ABCD+E is a multi-stage process to engage people-communities together. The people collectively -- 1) tell successful stories and analyze the contributing factors to success; 2) Identify and discover their assets (resources); 3) Analyze their assets and link them; 4) Make their plans for development, applying their assets; 5) Put their plans into action; 6) Nurture the development to be sustainable; and 7) Monitor, evaluate and move on forward. Every stage of the process is a collective “seeing, judging and action”.
- Subsequently conducted a Webinar on the ABCD+E on May 4, 5 and 8, 2021, by physical and virtual participation where some ABCD+E stories in Mindanao such as: a) the FICCO Experience, b) the BUKTAMACO Journey, c) Ganda Mobilized Savings Community in Taglimao, Cagayan de Oro City, d) The Higaonon Lumad Community were shared.
- Involved in the Birhen Sa Kota Foundation Development Interventions. This project had brought the team to visit the communities and sites to discuss with community leaders (January 29-30, 2021, in Malaybalay City; February 3, 2021, in Lanise, Mat-I, Claveria; February 8-10, 2021, in Tuod, Manticao, Malagana, Claveria, and Minalwang, Anakan, Gingoog).



Sessions with tribal and community leaders

- Chairperson of the First Community Credit Cooperative Foundation (FCOF); Initiated a partnership project between the FCOF and University of Canberra, “Making Vegetables Visible” (MVeM) intends to promote the establishment of community and school gardens in Cagayan de Oro City, applying the ABCD+E approach and jointly funded by the partners.
- Participated in informal workshops organized by University of Canberra (via zoom) on the subject, “Language, Linguistics and Development Practices”. Was specifically asked to review and comment on the paper by Catherine Levy entitled: “A Case for the Choice of Tokpisin in Development Work”. Co-authored along with Anne-Shangrila Fuentes, Ann Hill and Deborah Hill, a chapter in book “Contextualizing and Translating Asset-Based Community Development, Mindanao, Philippines” which will be published as the workshop output.

country report

Philippines

Dr Anselmo M. Mercado



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DURING PANDEMIA TIMES, MINDANO, PHILIPPINES

The COVID pandemia has not deterred my engagements in development works in the Philippines. My engagements have been “on-going” -- pre-, during- and hopefully looking forward to post-pandemia times. Working along with development colleagues, practitioners and communities with intentional, careful, precautionary measures, somehow development initiatives have gone on, at times by virtual means and at other times by actual fieldtrips to various places to meet with people physically in order get things done. This paper presents my activities during the pandemia times.

Re-imagining Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition Amid Covid Times and Beyond

The series of activities started in August of 2020. The Ateneo de Manila University invited me to participate in a “zoom meeting” to discuss a “framework” that would address food security issues that include Agriculture Development, Nutrition, the Food-Chain System (producers-consumers linkage), access to food, affordability of food, and food assistance for the neediest. Zoom-meeting after zoom-meeting (at times weekly), had led to a series of Webinars-Workshops to engage the youth, schools, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), other groups and institutions on the issues brought forth.

Last November 21, 2020, a webinar via ZOOM on “Fair Food Systems: Voices of Youth” was conducted in which I did the synthesizing comments. In a nutshell, there were three significant points that were raised, namely: 1) Agriculture is a crucial sector in our nation’s food security and well being, which therefore must be given primary importance in the development agenda.

country report

Philippines

On this point, several voices were heard from: a) the Talaandig Tribal Community, Buidnon Province, Mindanao, b) the Philippines Socio-Economic planning Secretary, and c) a renowned scholar. 2) The crucial link of processing-marketing-distribution-consumption of the farm products, which calls for improvement of a flawed, unfair system and to establish a more efficient and fairer structure -- so that the farmers will get a fairer share of the market prices and obtain better income, &, for the consumers and others in the food system to buy more quality goods & at more reasonable prices, and, to prepare and eat healthier foods. Our country needs the youth who can help tremendously, if they would engage themselves seriously, somehow, in the two points above-mentioned.

Food Systems Community Dialogues via Webinars-workshops

The main theme of Food System Community Dialogues was “Pathways to Sustainable Food & Nutrition, Consumption and Livelihoods.” The inputs-outputs of these webinars-workshops would be synthesized and would be sent to the “UN Pre-FOOD SUMMIT CONFERENCE” (July 2021) and eventually to the “UN FOOD SUMMIT” (September 2021).

The Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), Xavier University (XU) (Ateneo de Cagayan) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Philippines organized the Webinars-Dialogues which started last April 16, 2021, with two main objectives, namely: (a) To provide a venue to promote community dialogues and to bring greater awareness on the importance of food security and nutrition in the Philippines; and (b) To explore new pathways to sustainable food and nutrition, consumption and equitable livelihoods in order to make a contribution to reach the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030

“Getting agriculture moving.”



country report

Philippines

Around 250 participants had participated (via Zoom, livestreamed via YouTube) throughout the duration of the event, coming from the government (Department of Agriculture, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Science and Technology, the academe (Ateneo de Manila and Xavier University, Ateneo de Cagayan, Bulacan State University, University of the Philippines, Los Banos) and the private sector (Seaoil Foundation, Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines, Philippine Business for Social Progress), and other institutions. Most of the participants had interest areas mainly in Agriculture, Food and Security, Sustainable Consumption and Education.

On May 4, 2021, I was a facilitator in the break-out group to discuss one of subthemes that focused on the FOOD CHAIN System. My introduction pointed out that “Pathways” connotes something positive, and there are “WAYS” to move forward despite many challenges that have confronted the Philippines and people for decades, and to the current times amidst COVID pandemic. This prompted the discussion on the “pathways” from PRODUCTION to CONSUMPTION, from FARMERS (primary producers) to CONSUMERS, the whole FOOD CHAIN (production-processing-marketing-distribution-consumption).

There are “pathways” towards better FOOD SYSTEMS which can lead towards FOOD SECURITY for our people and country. The discussion points focused on: a) What are the “pathways” to be able to deal with the challenges, (economically, socially, politically), and at the local & national levels? b) What do you think may be the challenges along the way? c) At a personal position & involvement, what can you (we) (as a student, teacher, whatever) contribute to SEE, to JUDGE & to ACT, to move forward along the pathways towards development and food security?

Looking forward, another Webinar is being prepared to be conducted on June 25, 2021, by the same group with the theme: “Perspectives on Urban Farming and Community Gardening”. The conversation hopes to provide insights to educational institutions and civil society groups on models about Community Gardening and Urban Farming, and to advocate for Universities (educational institutions) to play a more prominent role in this regard.

country report

Philippines

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Promoting, Applying the ABCD+E and Some Success Stories



Home gardening. “Food Always In The Home.” (FAITH).



The Webinar on the ABCD+E which I conducted for three days took place last May 4, 5 and 8, 2021, by physical and virtual participation. This was sponsored by the First Community Credit Cooperative Foundation (FICCO-FCOF) with some fifteen (15) selected leaders of the FICCO and staff from the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAGRO) of Misamis Oriental.

country report

Philippines

The Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) is a positive approach which moves a community or group progressively forward towards their development. The “Empowerment” (“E”), gives them internal strength as they build on their successes. In a sense, this is an “enlightened” (positive) approach that repeals the gloom often associated with “problem-oriented” (negative) approach to community development. In another sense, it is what scholars term a “paradigm shift”.

The ABCD+E is a multi-stage process to engage people-communities together. The people collectively -- 1) Tell successful stories and analyze the contributing factors to success; 2) Identify and discover their assets (resources); 3) Analyze their assets and link them; 4) Make their plans for development, applying their assets; 5) Put their plans into action; 6) Nurture the development to be sustainable; and 7) Monitor, evaluate and move on forward. Every stage of the process is a collective “seeing, judging and action”.

Let me share some ABCD+E stories in Mindanao:

The FICCO Experience: The agriculture sector in the Philippines remains to be a formidable challenge. The poverty condition of many small farm families is a never-ending story with many interventions by government and private sector to address it. Habito, a respected scholar, has highlighted the “crucial role of farm coops”. He points out that although farmers’ coops in the Philippines have been struggling and few success stories for over five decades, “the only way our agriculture sector can raise productivity is for them to group together in large farm units to achieve economies of scale. ... And the only way government can ever be effective in helping small farmers is not to deal individually with 5.56 million farmers, but with groups organized into coops and other forms of clusters or collectives” (as shown by Vietnam, Thailand, S. Korea and Taiwan) (Boosting Farm Coops, Cielito Habito, Philippines Daily Inquirer, June 9, 2020).



Annual General Membership Assembly of 1 chapter of FICCO

country report

Philippines

In Mindanao, The First Community Cooperative (FICCO) has been in the forefront in showing that the COOPERATIVE system works In the Philippines. Like a “tree”, FICCO’s seed was sown in 1953, a small school savings and credit coop (“Ateneo Credit Union”). The seed sprouted, grew, branched out and produced fruits. Sometime in the 70s, it was renamed “FICCO”. As of December 31, 2020, FICCO’s Total Assets amounted to P15.68 Billion, the Members’ Total Capital Shares registered at P6.39, the Members’ Deposits totaled P6.21, and Total Membership was 395,621 spread out in branches in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao. It is one of the top community coops in the country.

FICCO has been inculcating in the members good habits of regular savings, good beneficial loans, and paying them promptly, the basics” in personal and family financial management. The remarkable pioneering step that FICCO has embarked on, is its rural and agriculture program – reaching out to the small farmers and connecting them with consumers (a Food Chain COOP system). Since 1990’s FICCO farmer-members have been easily availing of agriculture production loans from FICCO. Since 2012, the FICCO Maranding Branch (in Lanao Norte) has been purchasing palay from FICCO farmer-farmers for processing (dried, milled, etc.), and milled rice are being sold to FICCO members through FICCO branches in Lanao Norte and Misamis Oriental. In 2018, FICCO established a P113 million Rice Processing Center (rice mill, solar dryer, mechanical dryer, warehouse, equipment: forklift, mini-truck). This facility will wean the farmers and COOPs from the usual profit-oriented local millers and middlemen.

FICCO rice Processing Center



country report

Philippines

FICCO plans to expand this COOP farmer-consumer food-chain integration into other FICCO branches as it gains more experience and know-how. Other FICCO agriculture projects include a) Draft Animal dispersal program, b) Rice-Duck Farming Technology supported by a hatchery for duck and balut production, c) Farm vegetables/cash crops marketing in partnership with the Misamis Oriental Provincial Agri Office, d) Set-up Tissue Culture and agriculture plant nurseries, e) Water System projects, f) Kusina ng Kooperatiba, a tie-up with the Department of Educations feeding program for malnourished school children. Hopefully, it will also undertake a Coconut Processing Center in tandem with the Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental.

Furthermore, the FICCO Community Outreach Foundation programs have disbursed a total of P34,490,649 (5-year period 2016-2020) for Calamity Assistance, various Community Assistance, Scholarships for Schooling, Social Enterprises Assistance, Health Care Assistance and Environmental Protection. The Foundation is continuing to pursue its Vision: “That the ‘small people’, those who have less in life, will have more, will do more, will be more and share more.”



FCOF Community Assistance & Personnel Protection Equipment during Covid pandemic

country report

Philippines

The BUKTAMACO Journey

The Bukidnon Tagoloanon Mulahay Ha Kabukalagan Agricultural Cooperative (BUKTAMACO) has embarked in a journey that will be interesting to watch. Led by the lumad leaders themselves (one of them a lawyer), this is a journey into organizing the “lumad-cooperative” (a “mestizo”, hybrid), blending the lumad culture and the cooperative ideology, principles and mechanics.

Through this journey, the lumad members will be continuing to strengthen their BUKIDNON-TAGOLOANON BATASAN (VALUES), namely: a) Pabaton-batonâ (mutual responsibility to lift-up one another), b) Pauyag-uyagâ (mutual-help), c) Pabulig-buligâ (support system), and d) Patawil-twailâ (complementarity-cooperation)”. They have formulated their cooperative VISION: “To develop its ancestral domain through sustainable programs in keeping with its indigenous culture and tradition, enabling them to continue to live as Indigenous People and uplift the economic condition of its members enabling them to continue to live as Indigenous People and pass on to the next generations its culture”; and their cooperative MISSION: “To create a cooperative which will be the economic arm of the tribe which is an accepted juridical personality that can access opportunities for capital and shall enter into commercial transactions and to establish a 100-hectare agriculture plantation.”



At BUKTAMACO, Tribal COOP

While it is still too early to make some judgements at its infancy stage, the cooperative has shown good beginnings and potentials. The lumad culture of governance and the democratic way seem to be “blend-able”. The “cooperative business model” (non-profit, non-dole-out, but service) and the lumad ways (labor-sharing and benefit-sharing), seem plausible. However, some legal, registration and organizational-related issues have to be dealt with. Ultimately, what works “for, with and of the people” is of prime importance. After all, it is the INTERNAL STRENGTH, a genuine SELF-HELP-MUTUAL-HELP character and mechanics, MUTUAL EMPOWERMENT which makes any organization or aggrupation work wonders.

country report

Philippines

While it is still too early to make some judgements at its infancy stage, the cooperative has shown good beginnings and potentials. The lumad culture of governance and the democratic way seem to be “blend-able”. The “cooperative business model” (non-profit, non-dole-out, but service) and the lumad ways (labor-sharing and benefit-sharing), seem plausible. However, some legal, registration and organizational-related issues have to be dealt with. Ultimately, what works “for, with and of the people” is of prime importance. After all, it is the INTERNAL STRENGTH, a genuine SELF-HELP-MUTUAL-HELP character and mechanics, MUTUAL EMPOWERMENT which makes any organization or aggrupation work wonders.

Internal strength can be boosted and can be used as a leverage to obtain external resources. This is in fact happening at BUKTAMACO as they now have gotten the “eyes and ears” of government and other institutions which are beginning to support them in their journey towards development with technical and financial assistance. These external resources are enabling the lumad community to currently undertake a diversified farming system (cacao, bananas, etc. and some areas for growing giant bamboos), within their 900-hectare ancestral domain where the community is settled in. They also have a vermi-culture project, and other projects to be included in their development plan.

However, development practitioners know very well how external assistance can undermine internal strength. A flood of financial assistance, etc., can overwhelm the lumad community beyond their capacity to be able to handle it, like “eating more than they can chew”. There is also the danger that the external resources can be abused, misused and can corrupt leaders and others.

country report

Philippines

Ganda Mobilized Savings Community in Taglimao



Session with tribal & community leaders

Taglimao is a Barangay of Cagayan de Oro, about 30 kilometers from the city proper up on the southern upland areas. The Barangay has a population of about 3,200 or about 534 households. Sometime in September 2018, ten women (parents of malnourished children being helped by Hapag Asa Nutrition Program of the Catholic Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro), initiated a savings group and agreeing to save P 10 per week per member for their savings pool. They started to loan out the funds to their own members in need with a 5% per month interest rate. The savings grew (total of P375,000), the loans disbursed grew (more than one-half million pesos) (as of March 2021).

The members have undergone some basic lessons on bookkeeping, basic governance and policy-making.

They have formulated policies, e.g., loans in various amounts up to six months, penalties for delinquent loans and for absences, rotational leadership, etc.). Already, they are “rewarding” themselves in small ways by sharing their income (P1,000/year which started last December 2020). The group has also undertaken a small business project, e.g., making and selling herbal products with the brand name “Ganda”.

This is an inspiring example of the ABCD+E at work In a rural area and done by ordinary women in small ways, a self-help-mutual-help endeavor using, combining and sharing their internal resources. What this group has done within a short period of time is remarkable. Their example is currently replicated by other groups in nearby areas, like a big tree spreading its branches and yielding good fruits. “If there’s a will, there’s a way” that can work wonders.

country report

Philippines

A Higaonon Lumad Community in Barangay Samay

A lumad community in Barangay Samay is a “show window” and an ABCD+E “success story” to tell. This community is located in the mountains of Balingasag, about 477.9 meters or 1,567.9 feet above sea level, about 17 kilometers from the the centro of Balingasag Municipality, Misamis Oriental. The Higaonon lumad community is currently led by their datu.

The “show window” is their housing project of about 60 family dwelling units, with water and electricity, each unit costing about P200,000. The dwelling units are far better than their previous nipa huts and are now concentrated in a chosen area for easier access and interaction instead of the dispersed situation in their 14,000-hectare ancestral domain.

The improved housing is just one of their success stories. They have also been granted a Certificate of Ancestral Domain of their huge tract of land. They are continuing to improve their farming system of vegetables, fruits and agro-forestry for their livelihood. Their Higaonon lumad culture and value-system are being lived and strengthened -- such as: a) their devoted respect, faith and devotion to their Magbabaya Bai (Omnipotent Generous God). In almost every community event, they perform a ritual prayer with some live animal offering; and b) their great respect for their elders & leaders, and vice-versa, their leaders’ respect for their members e.g., to make them actively participate in decision-making on projects.



HigaononTribal prayer offering ritual:
tribal dance

Higaonon tribal community improved
housing units

country report

Philippines



Higaonon Tribal prayer offering ritual: tribal dance

This Higaonon lumad community is internally empowering themselves, with their dynamic leadership, community spirit and participation and spiritual belief. The government is recognizing them and partnering with them. The National Housing Authority has funded their housing project. The local government has been helping them in various technical and economic endeavors.

Birhen Sa Kota Foundation Development Interventions

The Birhen Sa Kota Foundation is a development arm of the Catholic Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro City, Mindanao. The Foundation is a strong advocate for the “Integrity of Creation” (Responsible Stewardship of Mother Earth). Its more recent development intervention is the Bamboo Planting and Growing Project, especially working with lumad communities (Indigenous People) to care for their Ancestral Domains and make them more productive to reduce poverty and help the country to be food secure.

The Bamboo Project started in January 2021 with preliminary introductions and orientation by partner advocates, namely, the Bamboo Ecological Corporation, Malaybalay, Bukdinon, Birhen sa Kota Foundation, some lumad leaders and parish priests, etc., The advocates discussed and planned for stages of the program to include technical trainings (bamboo growing, Carbon Credit Program and Geo-tagging, Economics) for the potential growers, getting the Memorandum of Agreement signed by the involved parties and implementation plans.

country report

Philippines



Bamboo Growing Training

This project had brought me and others in the team to visit planting areas and sites and to discuss with community leaders (January 29-30, 2021, in Malaybalay City; February 3, 2021, in Lanise, Mat-I, Claveria; February 8-10, 2021, in Tuod, Manticao, Malagana, Claveria, Minalwang, Anakan, Gingoog).



Sessions with tribal and community leaders

country report

Philippines

University of Canberra Connections

Me being the chairperson of the the First Community Credit Cooperative Foundation (FCOF), my connections with the University of Canberra (UC), Australia, started sometime in November 2019. A partnership project between FCOF and UC was initiated, “Making Vegetables Visible” (MVeM), to promote the establishment of community and school gardens in Cagayan de Oro City, applying the ABCD+E approach and jointly funded by the partners. This project is on-going.

Sometime in January-February 2021, I participated in informal workshops organized by UC (via zoom) on the subject, “Language, Linguistics and Development Practices”. The workshops reviewed and discussed some drafts of research papers with the objectives: a) To promote interdisciplinary dialogue between language professionals and development practitioners, b) To build bridges between language studies and development studies, and c) To demonstrate that language is an important tool for achieving sustainable human development. I was specifically asked to review and comment on the paper by Catherine Levy entitled: “A Case for the Choice of Tokpisin in Development Work”.

The UC will be publishing (still in the making) a book to include a chapter entitled, “Contextualising and Translating Asset-Based Community Development, Mindanao, Philippines” of which I will be a co-author along with Anne-Shangrila Fuentes, Ann Hill and Deborah Hill.

Participants

- Dr. Seksong Yongwanit (first joined ForUm in 2005), Professor Seksong, though retired but remain active in academic by taking an advisory role for graduate students in Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen.
- Ajan Kwansuang Atipothi (first joined ForUm in 2009), Mr. Kwansuang remains active in community services, mostly collaborates with Arsomsilp Community and Environmental Architect, and being lecturer at Arsom Silp Institute of the Arts, Bangkok.
- Dr. Chaiyan Ratchakul (first joined ForUm in 2008), Associated Professor Chaiyan, though retired, remains active in academic by teaching at Payao University, Payao. He is also active in academic activities by writing articles and being guest speaker to some events.
- Dr. Monsicha Bejrananda (first joined ForUm in 2006 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia), recently Dr. Monsicha is an associated professor in Urban and Regional Planning Program and Chair of Ph.D. Program in Integrated Research for Design, Architecture, Regional and City Planning (IRDPA), Faculty of Architecture, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen.
- Dr. Kitpatr Dabhalabutr (first joined ForUm in 2011), He is an assistant professor in Urban and Regional Planning Program, Faculty of Architecture, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen.
- Dr. Pornnarong Channuwong (first joined ForUm in 2017). Dr. Pornnariang is an assistant professor in Urban and Regional Planning Program at Faculty of Architecture, Khon Kaen University. Khon Kaen.
- Dr. Rattikarn Khambud (first joined ForUm in 2018, Kuching, Malaysia), Dr. Rattikarn is a senior urban planner in National and Regional Planning Bureau, Department of Public Works and Town and Country Planning, Ministry of Interior.

Thailand

Research Activities

- A group of researchers from Khon Kaen University, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Monsicha Bejrananda, helped the Rajamangala University of Technology Isan (RMUT) formulate two master plans for RMUT at Khon Kaen and Kok Si Campus. The project focus on designing a smart and eco-friendly campus for RMUT.

Academic Services/ Academic Activities

- Associate Professor Monsicha Bejrananda, Assistant Professor Kitapat Dhapalabutr, and Dr. Rattikarn Khambud have recently joined the "Thailand Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) Pilot Cities Project" in Khon Kaen City. The project aims to enhance the abilities and knowledge sharing of local government and stakeholders, as well as promote cross-sectoral collaboration in line with the 20-year Master Plan for Housing Development in Khon Kaen.



LNOB Project workshop held at Mekhong Institute, Khon Kaen University
(November 2021)

Conferences

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Monsicha Bejrananda joined the ForUm conference at the 2021 German Geographical Congress ("GeWoche") on 6-9 October 2021 (online) with the topic on "Spatial assessment for Khon Kaen Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)"

country report

Vietnam

Participants:

- Associate Prof. Dr. Ta Quynh Hoa, Dean of International Education Faculty – Director of International Cooperation Center for Education and Consultancy (ICCEC) at Hanoi University of Civil Engineering (HUCE), Hanoi, Vietnam, and a senior lecturer at Architecture and Planning Faculty – HUCE
- Associate Prof. Dr. Le Thu Hoa is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Environmental, Climate Change and Urban Studies, National Economics University, Hanoi, Vietnam
- MSc Le Thi Thuy Ha is the Deputy Head of Division for Urban Development Strategy and Policy Research at Vietnam Institute of Urban and Rural Planning, Ministry of Construction of Vietnam
- Dr Nguyen Ngoc Hieu is a lecturer at Vietnam – Germany University

Research and Policy Consultations

- Associate Prof. Dr. Le Thu Hoa involved in several research projects including
 - 2021, The Usage of Single- Use/ Disposable Plastics in Vietnamese Students
 - 2021-2022, Extended Producer Responsibility in several sectors (packaging, automobile, electric and electronic appliances)
- Miss Le Thi Thuy Ha has been actively involved in following projects taking up project management role,
 - Research on method, content and building instruction setting control criteria in construction planning for functional areas. Pilot for tourist area” (2020-2022, Ministry-level study).
 - Research and guide planning of sports areas (2021-2023, Ministry-level study).
 - Research and guide planning of training and research areas (2021-2023, Ministry-level study).
 - Research on integrated urban project models to respond to climate change, propose urban development models in the Mekong Delta in accordance with changes of natural ecosystems and climate change, towards sustainable development (2020-2022, Ministry-level study).

Vietnam

Teaching/Guest lecturer

- Associate Prof. Dr. Le Thu Hoa has consulted Ph.D. students with research topics in “Sustainable Economic Development for the Mekong Delta Key Economic Region of Vietnam” and “Developing the Electricity Industry in Lao PDR towards Sustainability”.
- Miss Le Thi Thuy Ha was appointed as trainer of “Intensive course on development orientation of green growth cities, smart cities and climate change response in urban development” for Hanoi, Thai Binh, Ca Mau People’s Committee (training courses for civil servants to manage urban development towards sustainable development in the provinces in Vietnam) (2021-2023).

Conferences

- Associate Prof. Dr. Le Thu Hoa involved in several academic activities as follows:
 - Participated in the 13th International Conference on Socio-Economic and Environmental Issues in Development (ICSEED) at National Economics University, Hanoi, Vietnam (June 2021)
 - Joined online conference of German Geographical Congress (October 2021)

Policy formulation

- Miss Le Thi Thuy Ha has been actively involved as national social housing expert in the project which aims for policy formulation titled “The establishment of the 2021-2030 comprehensive social housing policy in Vietnam”. A 2-year project (2020-2021) funded by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).



Vietnam

Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Hieu Researches and Consultancies

1. Concept plan competition for Ho Chi Minh Master Plan Revision to 2040, vision 2060

Develop concept plan to address challenges for conceptual revision of the Ho Chi Minh city Master plan 2040.

The role is the team leader to design, lead, coordinate to other teams, control the quality of plans, present, and write report for the panel in the City Competition, ranked highest score in the university and research institute league.

2. Integrated Provincial Plan for Tay Ninh 2030 vision 2040

Consulting project to prepare urban and rural Components of the integrated provincial development plan.

The role is the team leader of the components to design, lead, coordinate to other teams, control the quality of plans, present, and write report and maps of the urban development plan at provincial level and rural settlement issues at the district level.

3. Innovative Solution Plan for solving traffic congestion in Da Lat city – City Challenge Call and follow-up project development

Develop innovative solutions, including urban and transport planning, urban governance, infrastructure financing, and urban + traffic integrated solutions to combat strategic and seasonal traffic congestions for Da Lat city. The core group to work on the challenge partner between Vietnamese German University and Ho Chi Minh Planning Institute.

The role is the advisor to the governance, urban planning, and financing team, to contribute to develop analytical framework for the spatial and population development forecasts, spatial traffic impact from development, integrating urban governance and financing institutional frameworks and solutions.

4. Develop national policy on urbanisation, urban development, and urban economics

Research project to stipulate dedicated policy for urban development, lead by the Central Economic Committee.

The role is the team member, to contribute to research, submission, and the draft of the policy.

5. Service infrastructure development project for Ho Chi Minh city towards 2025 and vision 2040 - phase 1 - 2020.

This project provides inputs for revising Ho Chi Minh city strategic master plan to respond to the better transformation of the city towards higher value service oriented economy. This research aimed at analyzing opportunities to satisfy the increasing/changing demand for space and connectivity of service industries in the transformation of the digital economy and regional economic and settlement transformations.

The role in the project is the team leader, design research method, analyse 4 ecosystems (finance – banking insurance, science and technology, information and telecommunication, professional services) analyse spatial development, and generate synthesized reports.

Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Hieu

International Conference Organisation

**The 7th International Conference on Sustainable Urban Development
FUTURE CITIES - FROM CHAOTIC TO STRATEGIC IN CONNECTED SYSTEMS**
<https://icsud.vgu.edu.vn/icsud-2021/>

Key topics: affordable housing and climate change resilience to debates over the higher cost of fuel/energy to shape our city expansions. Thoughts on circularization of scarce water and building materials would also be appreciated besides digital transformation in green planning, green and smart mobility, and 15 minutes cities.

The role is the chairman of organizing team and academic board, keynote speaker.

Papers and Published Works

1. *'Tan Son Nhat – Opportunities for Airport City Model Development using Ecosystem Approach'* Planning Orientation and Urban Development towards International Airport City at Local Level – Tan Son Nhat Pilot Application in Tan Binh District Conference, Tan Binh, 2021, Tan Binh People's Committee and Ho Chi Minh City Department of Architecture and Planning.
2. *'Peri-urban development of Binh Chanh District from the strategic transformation pillars'* Binh Chanh Regional Planning Conference, Binh Chanh, 2021, Binh Chanh People's Committee and Ho Chi Minh City Department of Architecture and Planning.
3. *'Innovative Institutions for the Development of Ho Chi Minh City and Surrounding Region'*, National Conference on Ho Chi Minh city, the Vision of Marine Economy and Connection to The Global City Chain Proceedings, pp.178-197, Ho Chi Minh City, 2021.

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