

ForUm NEWSLETTER

Forum for Urban Futures in Southeast Asia
Network of Southeast Asian and German experts
Issue No. 14 NETWORK ACTIVITIES AND NEWS 2013
November 2013



CONTENT

PAGE

EDITORIAL

1

SECTION 1: OUR EXPERT SEMINAR

3

SECTION 2: EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

5

Memorandums of Understanding

International Conference on Humanities and Social Issues in Urban and Regional Development, National Economics University, Vietnam

International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences themed Humanities and Social Sciences for Development, Khon Kaen University, Thailand

A Fruitful Visit at Khon Kaen University

Students Workshop, Special Lectures/Visiting scholar

Regional Development Initiates Educational Collaboration of Universitas Gadjah Mada with universities in Thailand

The Staff Visit of Khon Kaen University, Thailand to the Faculty of Geography, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

SECTION 3: MEMBERS' UPDATE- ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS

17

An Account of a Double Whammy Disaster in Central Philippines

Individual Updates

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear friends and colleagues of ForUm,

Greetings from Kuala Lumpur!

After 2011, it is my pleasure again to deliver to you the ForUm newsletter 2013.



While this newsletter is prepared for activities of the respective year, a brief refresh of activities held in 2012, a year filled with some of the ForUm most memorable activities, is a worthy: for many of us, the expert seminars held in Germany in August/September and in Myanmar in December are still fondly recalled, I believe.

In conjunction with the International Geographical Congress themed 'down to earth', the ForUm expert seminar held in Cologne and Bonn symbolically signified 'back to its origins': Cologne, hosts the chair of ForUm; and Bonn, home to the headquarter of German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD)- ForUm founder and ForUm funder. Then in December, an expert seminar in our beloved member in Southeast Asia, Myanmar, exposed us to the stunning and one of the most un-exploited landscapes in the region, and the immediate and future challenges in light of the fast pace urbanization- key to the network discussions. Yet, 2012 ended with mixed feelings. Apart from these meaningful events, 2012 also marked the end of DAAD's financial support after its continuous support since 2005 in the form of a summer school.

It was uncertain which direction/s ForUm would lead to and how the network would remain active in the 'post-DAAD's era', despite deep inside, most members recognized that this network has grown stronger not only in terms of academic linkage but also the emotional bond... so what would be the way forward?

Here comes the fourth quarter of 2013. This doubt/worry was proven to be unnecessary when the call for the newsletter contributions by members was made in September. Dear all, the content of this newsletter speaks for itself- how contented I/we feel for the content contributed by our fellow colleagues! Many thanks to you all for the contributions especially by Ajan Sekson and Ajan Mosicha from Thailand, Pak Kamdi from Indonesia, Thu Hoa from Vietnam, Dr. Boy from the Philippines and Su Su from Myanmar for the exchange activities. Looking at the activities, I must congratulate all our ForUm members particularly members based at Khon Kaen University of Thailand for their tremendous efforts connecting with members through the signing of memorandum of understandings to foster further research collaborations. The MoUs were signed by Khon Kaen University with Universitas Gadjah Mada of Indonesia and with the Institute of Geography, University of Cologne, both in November. The full coverage can be found in Section 2 of the newsletter.

In fact, the North-South-South linkage does not end here. It was not only materialized through the MoUs but also through organizing and attending international conference! This year, the International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences involving the ForUm members as event coordinators was held twice, first in March where the National Economics University of Vietnam hosted the event and second in November, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Thailand was the venue. The conference(s) witnessed the

gathering of the ForUm key members: the Club 50s and the younger set but most importantly, the scientific exchange linking the North-South-South, attended by the members from Germany, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and of course, the host, Thailand. Personally, I must say that I envy those who attended and I could not (!) due to the commitments in the department- being the secretariat for the conference on integrated urban planning focusing on compact city exactly on the same dates. The 'fuller' coverage of the exchange activities is shared in Section 2, too.

The 'fullest' coverage in Section 2 features the educational collaboration between Indonesia and Thailand, official visits of Khon Kaen University to the Faculty of Geography, Universitas Gadjah Mada, special lectures given by members from Myanmar and Germany in Thailand, as well as student workshop participated by architectural students from Khon Kaen University to Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Apart from the exchange activities, covered in this newsletter, in Section 3, are the ForUm members' activities which include publications, urban-related research and professional activities as well as personal message from our dearly colleague and a wonderful friend, Lorna from the Philippines, on the 'double-whammy disaster in central Philippines'. What could I say more, I salute the people! While reading, I recalled the article by Ninotchka Rosca posted on Yahoo Southeast Asia Newsroom dated Nov 18, 2013. The article commented on the disaster brought by 'Hai-yan' titled 'calling Filipinos resilient is an insult' ... with the concluding remark: 'Who could be so resilient as not to be transformed by that?' It made me think further, and deeper about the concept of environmental and social risk and resilience, have that perhaps evolved into 'transformation' in social context.

And you may wonder, Hong Ching missed out Section 1! NO, I do not miss out. Only here that I touch on the Section 1 of our newsletter, a section which was previously allocated to report on ForUm expert seminar, is left blank for the first time since 2005. Section 1 remains in our newsletter, as I believe, we will, soon, to make it a colorfully filled section!

To conclude, this newsletter brings exceptional meaningful values to me and I believe, to all of us. We continue with greeting 'how are you?' each time we meet rather than 'nice meeting you!' in the conventional conferences or seminars- this is the social interaction beyond the intellectual linkage and what's more? We are able to maintain the network with the absence of formal financial support, not that it is not crucial but realizing that the key which holds us together is the intangible value connected through social network in the urbanized Southeast Asia than solely through tangible support... implicitly, we see the urban future of this region!

With smiles, I end the long writing here;
And ooohhh...not to forget, Happy New Year 2014 everyone!

Goh, Hong Ching
Department of Urban and Regional Planning (since Sept 23)
Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
November 2013

SECTION 1

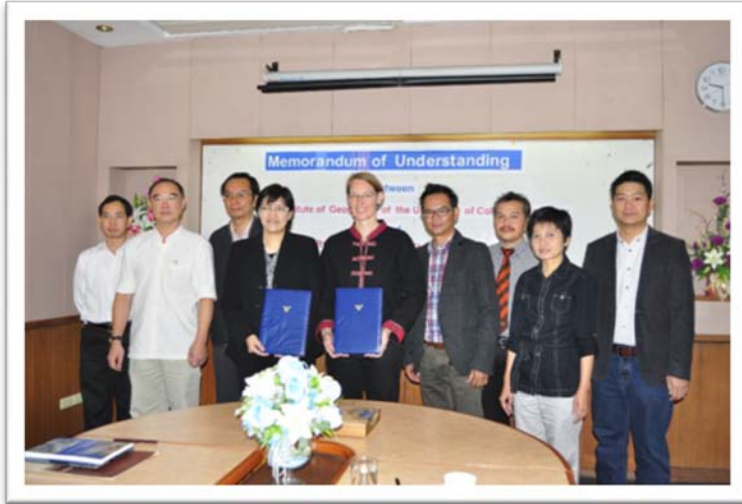
FORUM EXPERT SEMINAR

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SECTION 2

EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING



November 15, Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas and Asst. Prof. Dr. Monsicha Bejrananda signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Institute of Geography at University of Cologne and Faculty of Architecture, Khon Kaen University (KKU). The MoU is envisaging enhanced mutual collaboration in Urban and Regional Planning, Geographical Studies and related fields, by promoting:

- short-term training programs
- staff and student exchange
- research collaboration (with excursions, surveys and field work)
- individual and joint publications



November 18- Dr. H. Hartono, Dean of Graduate School, Universitas Gadjah Mada together with 2 professors went to Khon Kaen to sign MoU with Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University. The initial plan is to conduct research between the two universities tentatively scheduled in March 2014 on social science discipline.

CO-ORGANIZED CONFERENCES

March 25 and 26 - International Conference on Humanities and Social Issues in Urban and Regional Development, National Economics University, Vietnam, organized by National Economics University (NEU), Vietnam and Khon Kaen University (KKU), Thailand

Venue: Grand Convention Hall, NEU.

ForUm's members as the co-members in organizing and coordinating the event:

- Le Thu Hoa
- Sekson Yongvanit



Opening Speech by NEU's Vice President

Objectives of conference:

- To discuss and exchange theoretical and practical issues related to Urban and Regional Sustainable Development in Thailand and Vietnam;
- To identify and recommend researching orientation on Urban and Regional Sustainable Development and policy implications.
- To exchange the research issues related to Humanities and Social Sciences in Urban and Regional development



Participants: approximately 120 participants (32 from Thailand) attended the conference. These participants were coming from universities, research institutions, international organizations, NGOs and those concerning to Urban and Regional Sustainable Development in Thailand and Vietnam.

Participants from ForUm:

- Le Thu Hoa
- Sekson Yongvanit
- Le Thi Thuy Ha
- Nguyen Ngoc Hieu



November 14 and 15 - International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences themed Humanities and Social Sciences for Development, Khon Kaen University, Thailand. The event was organized by Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University (KKU), Thailand in cooperation with National Economics University (NEU), Vietnam.

Objectives of conference:

- To distribute knowledge gained from researches in humanities and social sciences.
- To enhance cooperative learning between researchers, scholars, lecturers, and students and to contribute to networking in the field of humanities and social sciences
- To develop quality and standard of research and thesis in humanities and social sciences.



Representatives from Universities

Outcomes:

- Researchers, scholars, and lecturers get acquainted and share knowledge and experiences in the humanities and social sciences field.
- Researchers, scholars, lecturers, and students developed their researches and thesis for better quality.
- New found information and knowledge in humanities and social sciences are published.

Operation and conference

- Lecture and discussion by expert guest speakers
- Research presentation in panels
- Exhibition and poster presentation



ForUm members (from left to right): Dr. Boy, Prof. Thu Hoa, Prof. Lee and Ajan Sekson



Delegation from National Economics University, Hanoi, Vietnam

A FRUITFUL VISIT AT KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY

by Anselmo B. Mercado

The Invitation and the Urban ForUm Connection

The Khon Kaen visit was brief, but one so nice and fruitful it would linger in my memory perhaps for good. On November 14-16, 2013, I was in Khon Kaen University in Khon Kaen, Thailand, upon the kind invitation of Professor Sekson, Director of the Development Science Program, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University. The email-invitation was sent to me a few months ago by Professor Sekson. He asked me to give some lectures to the graduate students of the Faculty pursuing their Master and Doctorate degrees.

Professor Sekson and I have become good friends through our active participation in many a-seminar and symposia on Urban Development and Planning and Related Issues, organized by the Urban ForUm, a group and network of academics and practitioners of Urban Development from various countries of Southeast Asia and Germany. Historically, the first seminar was in the Year 2005 organized and hosted by the Department of Geography of Cologne University Germany, under the leadership of Professor Dr. Frauke Kraas. Subsequently, a series of ten-day seminars and symposia were organized, conducted and hosted by Urban ForUm members and organizations in their respective countries until 2013 (Cambodia, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar). The Urban ForUm seminars were financially supported by DAAD of Germany.

Among the benefits and positive impact of the Urban ForUm network on its members is the fact that personal and professional relationships have developed among them, resulting in a sharing of mutual interests and activities. Beyond expectations, and even beyond the phase-out of DAAD support, some of us have been continuing to “keep in touch” in personal ways and in our professional endeavors. Many follow-up activities, bilaterally and/or multilaterally-initiated and organized by the members themselves, have sprung from this network. My visit to Khon Kaen University is a concrete example of this. Let me share this experience with you.

Arrival in Khon Kaen University and the Reunion



When Professor Sekson heard that I would be going to Thailand to conduct some lectures at the Asian Vegetables Development and Research Center in Kasetsart University, he asked me if I could proceed to Khon Kaen University for a visit and to give some lectures as well. Without hesitation, I agreed. Correspondence between us followed to lay out the details of my visit. Professor Sekson had also planned to invite a few other Urban ForUm colleagues. As the date approached, he sent me my flight e-tickets. On November 14, I arrived in Khon Kaen, Professor Sekson, a very graceful and kind host and friend, meeting me at the airport. A short drive brought us to Kwan Mor Hotel, inside the University campus, where I was billeted for two days.



Waiting at the hotel was Professor Dr. Frauke Kraas (Cologne University, Germany) and Professor Boon Thong Lee (Nilai University, Malaysia), two stalwarts and pillars of the Urban ForUm network whose friendship and professional expertise I have admired very much since I met them in the first seminar of 2005. Waiting for us in another hotel was our Urban ForUm colleague, Ms. Le Thu Hoa (Economic University, Vietnam). It was a wonderful reunion for all of us, and we celebrated it with a wonderful dinner in a restaurant up on its roof bar that overlooked a scenic lake of Khon Kaen. The cool evening breeze was refreshing as we dined. The food, wine and the company were just great! Like the Urban ForUm gatherings of yesteryears, we did a lot of talking, mixed talk – serious, not so serious, reminiscing the past, bantering, and enjoying one another's company.

The Session with the Graduate Students of Khon Kaen University

The following day, November 15 (after breakfast), Professor Sekson brought us to the lecture room for the lectures. The topics I was asked and prepared to talk about were: 1) Poverty, 2) The "Evolving Formula" of Development, and 3) The Asset-Based Community Development ("ABCD") Approach. The audience numbered more than thirty gentlemen and ladies. They looked scholarly dignified, most of them graduate students in the Faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences. From their looks, they had high expectations from the lecturer. One of them was assigned to facilitate in the session, and he introduced me to the audience.

To put ourselves “at-ease” with one another, I started the session(s) by asking each and everyone to briefly say something about three things: 1) His/her “nickname”, 2) What s/he was “good at”, and 3) What s/he “believed in”. Some interesting things came out of this brief introduction, and we all began to feel “relaxed” with one another. During my presentation, for some reason or other, the audience was very attentive. I could sense their interest, and I was happy that a couple of them would interrupt me with a comment or a question. During the open forum at the end of my lecture, a number of interesting comments and questions were expressed – an indication that my presentation went well. I ended the session by thanking the audience for their patience and attentiveness, and they acknowledged it with their appreciation as well. That made my day!

In the afternoon, Professor Dr. Frauke Kraas also gave her lecture to the same audience on a subject that was her expertise and close to her heart – Urban Planning and Urban Development.

A Serious Discussion on the Future of the Urban ForUm

In the early evening of November 15, Professor Sekson took us for a drive to see a bit of the City of Khon Kaen, intentionally passing along a popular avenue where one could see the golden sunset on the skyline. We were on our way to a restaurant located nearby another lake. At the restaurant we were joined by Professor Sekson’s wife (a faculty member of Khon Kaen U), and Monsicha (Faculty of Architecture, Khon Kaen U, and also a colleague of the Urban ForUm), and a couple of colleagues from Khon Kaen U. It was another evening of sumptuous dining and enjoyable company.



Again, we chatted a lot, and laughed a lot at some of the “old” jokes that brought back fond memories of the Urban ForUm seminars of the past years. We had one particular common observation – they were so fruitful and rewarding, and asked ourselves, how could Urban ForUm continue? What can the active members do together to keep it going? Somehow the discussion turned into serious discussion about the Urban ForUm, its future – what can be done? Then the “egg began to hatch”. Several ideas were laid on the table: 1) The Urban ForUm Newsletter must go on. Ms. Goh Hong Ching of Malaysia has volunteered to publish the next issue sometime on January 2014. 2) The Urban ForUm ten-day seminars must be continued. Two possible country-venues were identified for the seminars: Myanmar and Malaysia. Some themes and topics for the seminars were suggested but will be decided later. 3) A select core of Urban ForUm lead-members must meet sometime on February 2014 (in Myanmar) for a three-day planning session. Professor Dr. F. Kraas was very encouraging for us Urban ForUm members to take the initiative and be actively involved in these initiatives. She advised strongly: only by these deeds (not just words),

that the Urban ForUm network can convince DAAD to provide another financial support for our future activities.

It was a productive ending to a fruitful visit at Khon Kaen University. No words can sufficiently express our appreciation and gratitude to Professor Sekson, Professor Monischa and Khon Kaen University for making our brief stay so rewarding and enjoyable. Nevertheless -- muchas gracias, thank you, Krup Kon!

STUDENT WORKSHOP

September 4-10 - 6 Students and a professor from Faculty of Architecture, Khon Kaen University participated the 7th International Field School on Borobudur Saujana Heritage held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The field work organized by Dr. Laretna T. Adishakti is the first academic collaboration between Faculty of Architecture, KCU and Gadjah Mada University. It was an attempt to keep connection academically between DAAD alumni from both universities.



SPECIAL LECTURE / VISITING SCHOLAR

July 16-19- Special Lecture by Prof. Dr. Kyaw Lat, an advisor to Yangon City Development Committee, from Myanmar on the topic of “Transforming of vernacular to contemporary architecture in Myanmar” and “Yangon and the new challenges in the context of recent political development and urbanization in Myanmar” at Faculty of Architecture, KCU



Nov 15- A special lecture by Prof. Frauke Kraas at Urban and Regional Planning Program, Faculty of Architecture, KKU. During visiting KKU, Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas gave 10-15 graduate students in Urban and Regional Program a special lecture regarding the lesson from urban system in Germany. The lecture topic is "Regional Cities and Urban Networks in Germany - Lesson to Learn?"



Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas gave lecture to Master students at Department of Architecture, Mandalay Technological University Aug 9

With the strong encouragement and support from the Rector of Mandalay Technological University (MTU), the Department of Architecture (MTU) and the Institute of Geography (University of Cologne) could not only exchange in a special visit at MTU but more so in joint field work. During the visit at MTU, a long discussion followed the lecture of Prof. Kraas on "New social spaces in German cities". The lecture was held for Prof. Dr. Su Su, Head of Department, all staff members of the Department, 12 master students and 30 first year students.

During the joint field work, led by Prof. Kraas, the students from MTU took part in a five days intensive research field work in Sagaing. They were part of a multi-institutional research group from the DHSHD/Ministry of Construction, Myanmar, colleagues from the Department of Geography, University of Yangon and other Myanmar Universities as well as staff members from the Department of Geography, University of Cologne.

April 25- Ajan Sekson and the team from Khon Kaen University visited Yangon University to explore the possible collaboration of conducting research and exchange of staff and students in future at PhD program level. The team also had a chance to meet Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas and Dr. Zin Nwe Myint and joined the lectures designed for the Ph.D. students.

August- As an effort to promote the existing postgraduate programs which come with scholarship in Khon Kaen University, connections were made by Khon Kaen University of Thailand with universities in Myanmar including Yangon University and Mandalay University and the Thai embassy and relevant ministries in Nay Pyi Taw. This effort involved ForUm alumni from Thailand, Myanmar and Germany, i.e. Ajan Sekson from Thailand, Dr. Zin Nwe Myint from Myanmar and Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas from Germany who is currently based in Yangon University for research.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATES EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATION OF UGM WITH UNIVERSITIES IN THAILAND

June 21-27- The Study Program of Regional Development, Department of Geographic Information Science and Regional Development, Faculty of Geography Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) conducted its third fieldwork, as a compulsory subject for students in their last year of study, in Thailand. The activity was also part of international collaboration established by this faculty and the Faculty of Architecture, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMUTL). There were 24 students participating in this activity, supervised by Dr. Rini Rachmawati, S.Si., M.T. (Head of the study program), Alia Fajarwati, S.Si., M.DEA. and Surani Hasanati, S.Si., M.Sc.

This activity included three topics, i.e. ICT (Information and Communication Technology)-Based Sustainable City, Impact of International Migration to Regional Development and Settlement and Disaster Management.



General lectures, as part of this fieldwork, were delivered by lecturers from a few universities in Thailand and also experts in urban and regional planning. Dr. Kijmanawat, a field consultant for Urban and Regional Planning in Thailand, gave a lecture on sustainable development for Thailand.



A presentation entitled “A Case Study of Bangkok Metropolitan Region Urbanization” was also delivered by Dr. Amorn Kritsanaphan, a lecturer in Urban and Regional Planning Unit of KMITL, while the theme urbanization in Ho Chi Minh City Region was addressed by Dr. Le Thi Huong, a lecturer in the field of urban environmental management from Asian Institute of Technology.

The result of transect walk and in-depth interview during the fieldwork was presented by three representatives for each topic, namely Pembrimen Saragih, Yoke Indramurti Winarto, and Malindo Andhi Saputra, in a workshop on sustainable regional development. As a study of comparison of the topic, both supervisor and lecturer of KMITL also partook in this workshop.

Previously, the regional development study program conducted similar field study to Malaysia, hosted by the University of Malaya.

THE VISIT OF KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY STAFF TO THE FACULTY OF GEOGRAPHY UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA



July 23- The Dean of the Faculty of Geography UGM, Prof. Dr. R. Rijanta, M. Sc. hosted the guests from Khon Kaen University, Thailand. The delegation consist of 11 lecturers was lead by Prof. Dr. Sekson Yongvanit from the Faculty of Social and Humanities, Khon Kaen University. The visit is to discuss possible cooperation between the two faculties in the future.

SECTION 3

Members' update:

Activities and publications

An Open Letter to All my Family, Friends, and Colleagues across the Globe

“AN ACCOUNT OF A DOUBLE WHAMMY DISASTER IN CENTRAL PHILIPPINES”

by Lorna S. Manila

Thank you so much for your concern. I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of messages and well-wishes through social media from family, friends and colleagues across the globe. Me and family are "Gott sie Dank" safe and unharmed.

Central Visayas got a double whammy this year, a 7.2 earthquake that struck Bohol and Cebu, and a super Typhoon reminiscent of Hurricane Katrina that hit the northern part of Central Philippines (i.e., Cebu, Samar, Leyte, Iloilo, Capiz and Palawan).

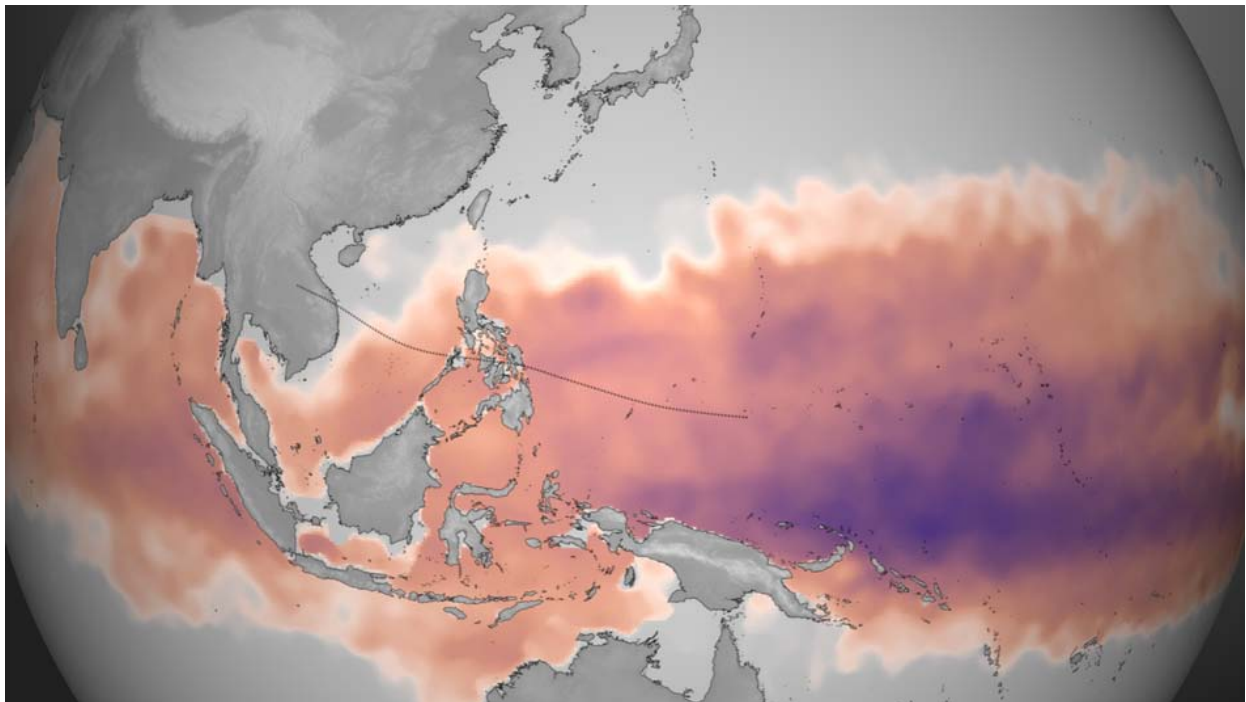
Cebu and to some extent Negros Oriental, where my family lives was hit by the 7.2 earthquake, early morning of October 15th 2013. I was having breakfast in my unit on the 4th floor of a residential building in Cebu when the most terrifying earthquake happened. My reaction progressed from fear, to panic, to utter horror, to resignation that this may be end of me, all in a span of one minute or less. It was the most terrifying thing and up to now I still haven't gotten over it. To add to my trauma is the fact that we are still experiencing several aftershocks, from the strongest of 6 to those that are less felt.



Source: Rappler 2013 by GohH. C.

Then the reality of the impact of the disaster came and left us stunned and speechless. It is unimaginable to many, that in a span of several seconds many homes and buildings, some centuries old, were gone-KAPUT. Many were injured and homeless, but at least not many people died. With a heavy heart we saw the extent of the damage to lives and properties, changing landscape altogether. The government and all sectors of society responded to call for help, mobilizing all resources to provide immediate relief and henceforth to rebuild the affected communities of the provinces Bohol and Cebu. Our slogan was "Bangon Sugbohol" (Rise up Cebu Bohol).

When we were starting to get back to our normal lives after the earthquake, trying to respond to the disaster by assisting in the relief and rehabilitation comes again terrifying news of super typhoon Yolanda (Intl. Code Name "HAIYAN"). News and early warnings were issued on what to expect if a Storm signal No. 4 is issued. In Cebu classes and work were suspended on the day of the expected landfall (October 8, 2013). While we were caught unaware by the 7.2 earthquake, with the super typhoon, we knew it was coming. We feared for our lives hoping and praying that this time it will not hit us. Two disasters in less than a month is more than enough. Thankfully Metro Cebu was not hardly hit by the Super Typhoon. It was northern Cebu, including Bantayan Island that was severely damaged in the Central Visayas region. What we did not anticipate was extent of the devastation in Eastern Visayas particularly the City of Tacloban and its neighboring towns and cities.



Source: NOAA Environmental Visualization Laboratory 2013, by Goh H. C.

Our Regional Director was there first hand to bring our relief assistance to our NEDA coworkers. As he recounted to us, even after a week there were still bodies lying on the streets and the stench was awful. Mass graves are provided to bury the dead, but not all. Shortage of food and water is everywhere despite reports of relief operations. Those who survived are one in saying, when is aid coming? We need food and water! Many need medical attention. Power is out and will not be restored for months. Debris is everywhere and lawlessness is slowly coming in as rampant looting is observed.

For whatever reason, one thing is certain; national government was slow in responding to the disaster. But despite its shortcomings, there are still people in government that are seriously doing the ground work for disaster relief operations at ground zero. So I always tell everybody who criticize gov't. For being inefficient, to give national government some slack. The local government cannot also move as many were also victims of the disaster.

Maybe later when every hungry person is feed and clothed, with a roof over their heads and things resembles normalcy, then we can start to analyze objectively why this has happened and what needs to be done without necessary pointing fingers at anyone. Everyone is a victim, or has a family who is a victim. What is important is rebuilding these areas and its people and giving them a new leash at life.

Here in Cebu, we are also busy in the relief efforts at the moment as government agencies in Tacloban City are also severely affected and their operations paralyzed. Their staff and families are also victims of the calamity. Metro Cebu has been identified as a major relief center outside Metro Manila because of its proximity to the affected areas and also because it is a regional center and most of the really important goods and services needed in the affected areas is readily available.

Not only is Metro Cebu a relief center distribution hub, it is also now functioning as an evacuation/transient center. Every day since last week, people from Tacloban City and its neighboring LGUs have been evacuated to Cebu to clear up the area. Some on their own have decided to leave the place either temporarily or permanently. It is a harsh reality that is for me hard to comprehend and accept. These people who survived would need psycho-social debriefing, medical attention, food, shelter, jobs to sustain their daily needs, permanent homes: a huge burden which I don't think our present government can solely undertake.

We will be forever be grateful for the humanitarian aid provided by other countries and the international development and relief agencies who without their help would have made the relief efforts another "disaster". But most of all to the Bayanihan spirit of every Juan both here and abroad. The resiliency of the Filipino is once again shown. We bend, we bow, but we will not break.

In the coming days and months the process of healing and getting back on our feet would be on everyone's agenda. In the coming months and years the process of reconstruction and rehabilitation especially for major public services and infrastructure would be the task of the local and national government. Let these extreme disasters be a silent reminder to those in power that every Filipino will be keeping an eye on what they will be doing. Every Peso that they received should be spent and put to good use to alleviate the sufferings of those affected.

Many questions still need to be asked and answered. For example, to what extent is the government prepared in providing disaster relief? For how long? What structures are systems need to be replaced, established or sustained? How should funds for disaster relief be committed? More importantly, how should disaster risk management and mitigation be planned in urban areas were most of the population is concentrated? And still more ... This will be a subject of intense discussion....

INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM MYANMAR

By Professor Dr. Su Su

Professor and Head
Department of Architecture
Mandalay Technological University



Photo taken at Taunggyi, November 2013

Academic activities 2013

1. Active participation in preparation of Management Parts of Nomination Dossier and Property Management Plan of very early ancient urban areas in Myanmar - Pyu Ancient Walled Cities
2. Active participation of our department staffs and students in 'Myanmar German Research Cooperation, Qualitative Social Research Methodologies For Urban and Regional Development In Myanmar' in cities like Taunggyi , Mawlamyine, Sagaing and Pyay together with other related institutions under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas.

*Pyay is included as a priority city as one of our action plans in Property Management Plan for Pyu Ancient Cities is 'Ministry of Culture is to work closely together with Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development, Ministry of Construction, in physical planning of Pyay which is adjacent to Pyu Ancient City – Sri Ksetra'.

3. Member of 'Yangon City Comprehensive Land Use, Zoning and Urban Design Review Working Committee' formed by Yangon City Development Committee together with another ForUm member, Daw Hlaing Maw Oo
4. Active Participation in "Myanmar National Building Code" drafting project as a member of "Technical Working Group II Architecture and Urban Design"
5. Participated as a member of 'Committee to Consider Disaster Risk in Mandalay City Planning'

6. Plan to sign MoU between Department of Geography, Cologne University and Department of Architecture, Mandalay Technological University for future collaborations such as visits, seminars, workshops, short and long term trainings, joint research projects, etc.



Photo taken during Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas and Dr. Daw Zin Nwe Myint visit to our department,
Department of Architecture, Mandalay Technological University

INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM VIETNAM

By Ta Quynh Hoa

Deputy Director of International Cooperation Department
Senior Lecturer in Architecture and Urban Planning Faculty
National University of Civil Engineering
Hanoi, Vietnam



Publication update from 2012 to 2013

1. Quynh HoaTa (2013), Community participation in urban planning for sustainable development in Vietnam – Prospect and challenges, The international Conference on Sustainable Built Environment for Now and Future, Hanoi, p 71-p78
2. Quynh Hoa Ta (2013), Improving quality of community consultation in detailed planning process for sustainable development of Vietnam urban areas, The international Conference on Sustainable Built Environment for Now and Future, Hanoi, p 95 – p102
3. Quynh Hoa Ta (2013), Assessment on municipal government's role in mobilizing community participation in Vietnam urban detailed planning for sustainable development, International conference : Humanities and socio –economic issues in urban and regional development, Hanoi, p349-365
4. Tạ Quỳnh Hoa (2012) ,Tổ chức giám sát và đánh giá cơ chế huy động sự tham gia của người dân trong quy hoạch đô thị tại Việt Nam, tạp chí Khoa học Công nghệ Xây dựng- Trường ĐHXD, số 12/ 5-2012, trang 33-44 (Study on supervision and assessment mechanism of mobilizing community participation in urban planning in Vietnam, Scientific and Construction Technology Magazine – National University of Civil Engineering, No.12/Vol.5 -2012, p 33-34)

Academic activities 2013

1. Had 6 months research intern on community participation in Architecture Department of Laval University, Quebec Canada, January 15 to July 2.
2. Attended the International Symposium 'USMCA 2013 - New Technologies for urban safety in Asian mega cities' in Hanoi, October 9-12.
3. Presented 'Hanoi capital city's development - Prospects and Challenges' in the 'Asian City Forum 2013 – Shanghai' themed Asian City Transformation, Shanghai, October 15-17.
4. Participated in several community based projects, including 'Planning for safe walks for children to go to school – Case studies in Ha Dinh suburban commune, Hanoi, Vietnam' and 'Study on rural villages in periphery of Hanoi for sustainable development'.

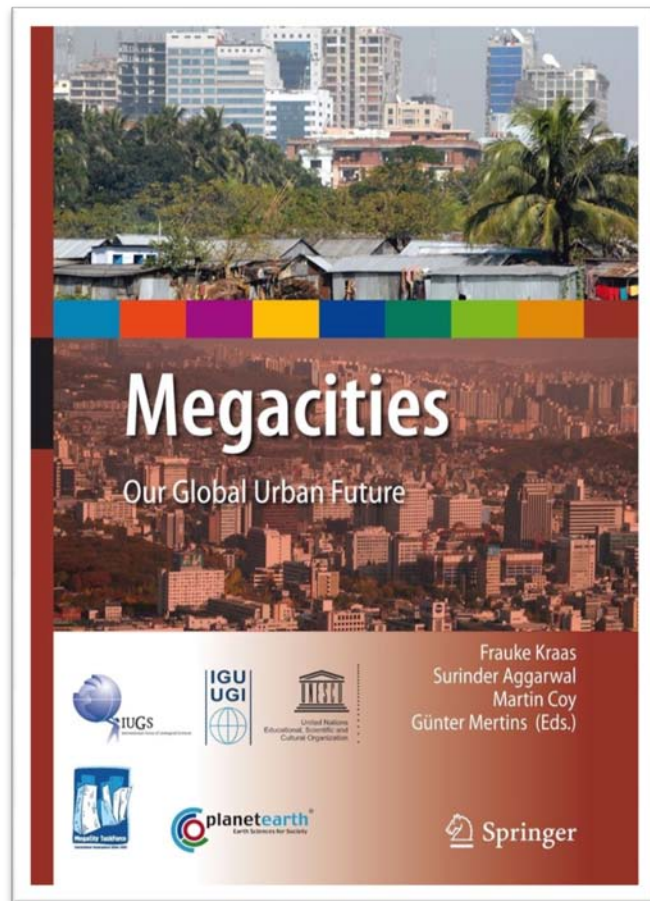
INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM GERMANY

By Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas

Institute of Geography
University of Cologne
Cologne, Germany



1. Kraas, F. (2012): Das Hochwasser 2011 in Bangkok. *Geographische Rundschau* 64 (1): 58-61. Kraas, F., T. Bork (Hg.) (2012): Urbanisierung und international Migration. *Migrantenökonomien und Migrationspolitik in Städten. Eine Welt. Texte der Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden* 25. Baden-Baden (Nomos).
2. Bork, T., F. Kraas (2012): Einleitung: Migrantenökonomien und Migrationspolitik in Städten. In: Kraas, F., T. Bork (Hg.): *Urbanisierung und Migration. Migrantenökonomien und Migrationspolitik in Städten. Eine Welt. Texte der Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden* 25. Baden-Baden: 9-12.
3. Kraas, F., T. Bork (2012): Urbanisierung und international Migration. Versuch einer Standortbestimmung. In: Kraas, F., T. Bork (Hg.): *Urbanisierung und Migration. Migrantenökonomien und Migrationspolitik in Städten. Eine Welt. Texte der Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden* 25. Baden-Baden: 13-30.
4. Bork, T., B. Rafflenbeul, F. Kraas, Z. Li (2012): Chinas Migrations- und Stadtpolitik: Auswirkungen für afrikanische Migranten in Guangzhou und Foshan. In: Kraas, F., T. Bork (Hg.): *Urbanisierung und internationale Migration. Migrantenökonomien und Migrationspolitik in Städten. Eine Welt. Texte der Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden* 25. Baden-Baden: 149-165.
5. Butsch, C., F. Bembek, F. Kraas (2012): Megaurbane Risiken: Ursachen und Folgen der Überschwemmung von Mumbai 2005. Scharfenort, N. (Hg.): "Lokal verankert, weltweit vernetzt" - *Geographien der Globalisierung. Mainzer Kontaktstudium Geographie* 13. Mainz: 39-50.
6. Hartmann Kilian, P., D. Schiller, F. Kraas (2012): Workplace quality and labour turnover in the electronics industry of the Pearl River Delta, China. Contrasting employer and employee perspectives. *Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftsgeographie* 56 (1-2): 58-79.
7. Matthias Garschagen, Javier Revilla Diez, Dang Kieu Nhan und Frauke Kraas (2012): Socio-Economic Development in the Mekong Delta: Between the Prospects for Progress and the Realms of Reality. In: Renaud, Fabrice G.; Kuenzer, Claudia (Eds.): *The Mekong Delta System. Interdisciplinary Analyses of a River Delta*. Heidelberg, Springer: 83-132. DOI: 10.1007/978-94-007-3962-8_4
8. Butsch, C., F. Kraas, M. Kroll (2012): Gesundheit für alle? MDGs am Beispiel von Mumbai. *Geographische Rundschau* 64 (11): 36-42.
9. Kraas, F., K. Zehner, Gelhar, M. (Hg.) (2013): Köln und der Kölner Raum. Ein geographischer Exkursionsführer. *Kölner Geographische Arbeiten* 93. Köln. 2. Auflage. 109 Seiten.
10. Kraas, F., S. Aggarwal, M. Coy, G. Mertins (eds.) (2014): *Megacities - Our global urban future*. Heidelberg (Springer). 225 S.



11. Kraas, F., S. Aggarwal, M. Coy, G. Mertins (eds.) (2014): Megacities research international. In: Kraas, F., S. Aggarwal, M. Coy, G. Mertins (eds.): Editorial: Megacities: Our Global Urban Future. Heidelberg (Springer): v-vii.
12. Kraas, F., G. Mertins (2014): Megacities and Global Change. In: Kraas, F., S. Aggarwal, M. Coy, G. Mertins (eds.): Megacities – Our global urban future. Heidelberg (Springer): 1-6.
13. Liu, W.-H., F. Bickenbach, W. Fu, W., P. Hartmann, S. Meyer, S. Ohm, S. Hennemann, D. Schiller, F. Kraas, I. Liefner, J. Revilla-Diez, R. Soltwedel (2014): Agile Firm Organization and Upgrading in the Greater Pearl River Delta. In: Kraas, F., S. Aggarwal, M. Coy, G. Mertins (eds.): Megacities - Our global urban future. Heidelberg (Springer): 121-133.
14. Bork, T., B. Rafflenbeul, F. Kraas, Z. Li (2014): Global Change, National Development Goals, Urbanization and International Migration in China: African Migrants in Guangzhou and Foshan. In: Kraas, F., S. Aggarwal, M. Coy, G. Mertins (eds.): Megacities - Our global urban future. Heidelberg (Springer): 135-150.

INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM MALAYSIA



By Hong Ching Goh

Senior lecturer

Department of Urban Planning

Faculty of Built Environment

Universiti Malaya.

Research grants (only those related to urban issues)

1. Cemetery and land scarcity in Kuala Lumpur: Crossroad of cultural and economic values in development. Principal Investigator. Universiti Malaya Research Grant- 2 years. 1st year funding: RM56,200.00 (May 2013- present)
2. Governance of Land-use Conflicts in Sungai Selangor Watershed. Co-researcher. Universiti Malaya Sustainability Science Cluster Flagship Project. 3 years. 1st year funding: RM180,000.00 (Jan 2013-present)
3. Governance in context: Integrating land use conflict and sectoral division in Pulau Pangkor. Principal Investigator. Universiti Malaya Research Grant- 2 years. 1st year funding: RM61,900.00 (December 2013 - present)

Publications (only those related to urban issues)

1. Jamilah, M. and Goh. H. C. (eds.) Governance of Land-use Conflicts in Sungai Selangor Watershed. Forthcoming.
2. Goh, H. C., Nisfariza, M. N. and Jamilah, M. (forthcoming). Communicating garden city concept and heritage conservation in Kuala Kubu Baru. In Jamilah, M. and Goh. H. C. (eds.) Governance of Land-use Conflicts in Sungai Selangor Watershed. Kuala Lumpur: Universiti Malaya Press.
3. Goh, H. C., Jamilah, M., Nisfariza, M. N. and Syarilla, M. S. (forthcoming). 'Save Sungai Selangor' and the indigenous people: Looking back, moving ahead. In Jamilah, M. and Goh. H. C. (eds.) Governance of Land-use Conflicts in Sungai Selangor Watershed. Kuala Lumpur: Universiti Malaya Press.
4. Syarilla, M. S., Jamilah, M., Goh, H. C., Nikmatul A. N., Nisfariza M. N. (forthcoming). Spatial-environmental governance in the Sungai Selangor watershed. In Jamilah, M. and Goh. H. C. (eds.) Governance of Land-use Conflicts in Sungai Selangor Watershed. Kuala Lumpur: Universiti Malaya Press.
5. Mariney, M.Y, Goh, H.C and Tengku Adeline Adura, T. H. (forthcoming). Kampung Haji Abdullah Hukom: The lost Village in the City. Sarjana.

Poster presentation (only those related to urban issues)

1. Communicating the origins of 'Garden City' in Kuala Kubu Baru, Malaysia. – Best Poster Award, Universiti Malaya Researchers' Conference 2013, Research Management and Innovation Complex, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, November 19-20, 2013.

Conferences and workshops attended (only related to urban issues)

1. Universiti Malaya Researchers' Conference 2013, November 20-21. Universiti Malaya.
2. 5th International Conference on World Class Sustainable Cities 2013, September 24. Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.
3. Stakeholder round table discussion- land use conflicts in Sungai Selangor watershed organized by Universiti Malaya Research Management Institute, June 6. Research Monitoring and Innovation Complex, Universiti Malaya.
4. Symposium on Urban Health and Well-being organized by International Council for Science, May 23. Sunway Hotel.
5. Greater KL and Smart Cities Summit: Gearing up for sustainable growth through smart initiatives organized by Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLi), February 25 in Berjaya Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.
6. Japan-Malaysia Symposium on Sustainable Cities in Asia organized by Malaysia Department of Town and Country Planning, January 22.

DAAD-related activity

1. Volunteered at 18th Post Graduate Education Fair (PGEF) in Midvalley Exhibition Centre, at DAAD booth September 6-7.



Photo (left): During the first day (Sept 6) of the education fair.

Photo (right): At the end of the second day (Sept 7), photo taken with DAAD administrator in Kuala Lumpur and from Singapore, 2 volunteered students as well as the representative from German Alumni Association.

Urban-issues related fieldworks

1. Geographical fieldwork June 28 – July 7 to Fraser's Hill, Kuala Kubu Baru and Kuala Selangor.



Photo (left) - Meeting with the Mayor of Hulu Selangor District at Kuala Kubu Baru, the first garden city in Malaysia.

Photo (right) - Photo taken after briefing from the Fraser's Hill Development Corporation at Fraser's Hill.

2. Studio fieldwork Oct 2-7 to George Town City Center for Studio III City Center Study



Photo taken after the mural painting (community service) at local school in George Town.



**Forum for urban future in Southeast Asia
Network of Southeast Asian and German Experts**

Objectives of the Network

- Platform for a North-South-South Dialogue
- Capacity Building by Knowledge and Expertise
- Sustainable Research and Development Cooperation

<http://forum-urban-futures.net/>

The program was sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) from 2005-2012.