

## SUMMER SCHOOL ON RESEARCHING LAND GOVERNANCE AND LAND RELATIONS IN THE MEKONG REGION

15-19 JULY 2019, RCSD, CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY

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### **Program description**

In July 2019, the [Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development](#) and the [Mekong Land Research Forum](#) will run its third week-long intensive summer school on land research in the Mekong Region. The purpose of the summer school is to equip participants with a research orientation relevant to the challenges of land governance in the Mekong Region. The summer school will cover key concepts, provide access to existing research outputs and bring together knowledge of current land issues. It seeks to strengthen individual and networked research that is geared towards secure access to land amongst the rural and urban poor.

The summer school will involve a mix of early-career academics, mid-level government staff and those working with civil society organizations in the six Mekong countries: Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

The summer school program will be organised and run by regional specialists in land issues and will include a number of guest lecturers. Included in the summer school are:

- Pre-workshop assignments for participants to submit a one-page summary of their areas of interest in land issues, plus reading of relevant articles and review of other participants' summaries
- Elevator talks: participants present their research topics and ideas
- Facilitator-led seminars on key land-related questions and literature in the Mekong Region
- Lectures and practical exercises throughout the workshop
- Lectures by invited speakers on key issues in research on land
- Practical exercises on:
  - searching and selecting key land-relevant literature
  - individual reading-based assignments: annotating key articles
  - group literature review exercises
- Field program to experience some of the complex land issues in northern Thailand
- Topic sharing and development by participants

### *Key topics and concepts*

- Access and exclusion
- Dispossession and justice
- Responsible agricultural investment
- Customary tenure
- Transborder issues and regionalization

- Resource tenure
- Migration and labour
- Agrarian changes and peri-urban development
- Green agendas
- Marginalised groups e.g. ethnicity, gender

The one-week program is run in an intensive format and requires a good working knowledge of the English language and a professional interest in issues related to land governance.

The tentative timetable for the summer school is as follows:

Day 1: Monday 15 July	
Morning	Opening and overview of the program Seminar 1: Participants introduce each other and their topics on land Lecture 1: Current research issues in land relations in the Mekong Region
Afternoon	Lecture 2: Cases and conflicts in Thailand Exercise 1: Searching and selecting literature based on four key land-related themes Field trip orientation Homework: Collate group materials around each theme for presentation on Wed 17th
Day 2: Tuesday 16 July	
Full day	Field program: Changing land relations in peri-urban Chiang Mai
Day 3: Wednesday 17 July	
Morning	Seminar 2: Presentation of key themes in land relations and governance Seminar 3: Facilitated discussion on land relations arising from field trip Lecture 3: In-depth topic 1 - Responsible agricultural investment
Afternoon	Exercise 2: Individual annotation exercise – in-depth review of key themes in land governance Homework: finish collating annotations as groups, placed into PowerPoint
Day 4: Thursday 18 July	
Morning	Seminar 4: Present annotations from collated during the afternoon of Day 3 Exercise 3: Group literature synthesis on key themes
Afternoon	Seminar 5: Present group literature syntheses Lecture 4: In-depth topic 2 - Customary land tenure
Group dinner	
Day 5: Friday 19 July	
Morning	Seminar 6: Presentations and reviews of revised participant topics - 3 minute elevator talks Seminar 7: Discussion on role and contexts of research on land relations for different purposes
Afternoon	Exercise 4: Small group work - developing an extended outline and planning an article/writing a research proposal based on comparative experiences across the Mekong Region Wrap-up and next steps

Participants will need to arrive in Chiang Mai by the evening of Sunday 14 July and depart no earlier than the morning of Saturday 20 July

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The [Mekong Region Land Governance](#) program will provide travel and accommodation support to participants from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Participants from Thailand and Yunnan/Guangxi in China will need to fund their own travel and accommodation costs, but all tuition and meal costs will be provided without charge.