



SUMERNET Lancang-Mekong Research Forum 27th October 2021

Moderators



Dr. Leonie Pearson
SUMERNET Research
Coordinator

SEI Asia Senior
Research Fellow (Water)

Leonie Pearson is SUMERNET's Coordinator for research for policy and practice, as well as Senior Research Fellow (Water) for SEI Asia.

Her work is focused on securing vulnerable people's access and rights to water through high impact research for the SEI SUMERNET programme. She has worked for more than two decades at the intersection of sustainability research, public policy and collaborative engagement.

As a world-renowned ecological economist, she has delivered innovative knowledge to governments, on-ground policy change and over 150 articles and papers with keynote addresses. Her expertise is in sustainable development, landscape water management, livelihood policy, integrated assessment urban-rural and the knowledge-practice nexus. Leonie has a PhD in Applied Economics from the University of Queensland in Australia and a BSc (Hons) in Economic Geography from the University of New South Wales, Australia. She also a Diploma in Corporate Governance from the Australian Institute of Company Directors and certificates in Tertiary Education from the University of Queensland and Development Economics, Policy and Practice, from the World Bank.



Ms. May Thazin Aung
SUMERNET Multi-stakeholder
Engagement Coordinator

SEI Asia Research Fellow (Policy)

May Thazin Aung works on SUMERNET's Policy Engagement and is a Research Fellow with SEI Asia working on policy analysis and stakeholder engagement.

May works closely with government agencies and civil society in Southeast Asia to promote evidence-based decision-making for sustainability in the region.



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Opening and Closing Sessions



Dr. Lailai Li
SUMERNET Steering
Committee Member (P.R. China)

Lailai Li worked at SEI from 2006-2012, first as Deputy Director and later on as SEI Asia Centre Director. Before joining SEI, she was Director of the Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Programme and the Institute for Environment and Development in Beijing (IED), a Chinese NGO which she founded in 1994.

After leaving SEI in 2012, she joined the World Resources Institute (WRI) as its China country director until 2019 when she retired from WRI. She holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of Pittsburgh in the United States and was a research fellow at the Institute of Sociology and Anthropology at Peking University before starting IED. Currently her role in SUMERNET, she is serving as SUMERNET Steering Committee Member for the term 2020 – 2023.



Dr. Louis Lebel
SUMERNET Steering Committee

Co-Chair (Thailand); Director, Unit for
Social and Environmental Research
(USER), Chiang Mai University, Thailand.

Louis Lebel has been with Chiang Mai University since 1999 and began working in Thailand in 1991. He has on-going research interests and a range of publications spanning ecology, epidemiology and public health, political science and environmental governance. He helps lead and coordinate the Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience (M-POWER) a network of some 30 organizations committed to improving livelihood security, human and ecosystem health in the Mekong Region through democratizing water governance.

He has contributed to several of the international global environmental change research programs over the past 15 years. Currently he heads Unit for Social and Environmental Research (USER) based at Chiang Mai University as Director and serves as SUMERNET Steering Committee Co-Chair.



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Session 1: Addressing water insecurity in times of COVID-19



Dr. Wu Yusong

Associate Professor, Center for Rural
Development Studies,
Yunnan University, P.R. China.

With more than 25 years of rich experiences in working with international NGOs, aid agencies and research institutes, Wu Yusong mainly focuses on political ecology field, especially on the areas of poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation, good water governance in Lancang Mekong watershed, climate change and locals adaptation, China's overseas investment in Southeast Asia and South Asia.

She has accumulated long experiences of working as a consultant to international and domestic development and conservation agencies such as World Bank, ADB, UNDP, UNEP, WWF, IUCN, SFA and MEP etc. Over the years of working with multi-stakeholders, Wu Yusong and her team has developed good partnerships and network with government agencies at different levels, research institutes, private sectors, NGOs and local communities.



Prof. Dr. Nilar Aung

SUMERNET Steering Committee
Member; Pro-Rector,
Taunggoke University, Myanmar.

Nilar Aung is a Pro-Rector of Taunggoke University, Rakhine State, Myanmar. Obtained her Bachelor, Master and PhD in the field of Human Geography from University of Yangon, Myanmar. She served at many Universities within Myanmar such as University of Yangon, Hpa-An University, West Yangon University, Maubin University, Hinthada University, Dawei University and East Yangon University.

As a human geographer, she involved in many research projects such as Transformation Processes in Myanmar, Mega City Yangon with Cologne University, Germany, Sustainable Tourism Development in Myanmar with Griefswalds University, Germany, Mitsuri Project with Australia National University and Voice Project with Chaingmai University. She is a national focal person for ASEAN Working Group of Environmental Education for Higher Education (AWGEE) also a member of SUMERNET Steering Committee.



Dr. Apisom Intralawan

Lecturer, School of Management,
Mae Fah Luang University,
Chiang Rai, Thailand

Apisom Intralawan is an interdisciplinary researcher and a lecturer of Ecological Economics, School of Management, Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, Thailand. His work focuses on ecosystem service valuation, economic assessment, water-energy-food nexus tradeoffs in the Lower Mekong Basin, and capacity building for riparian communities to increase resilience and adaptation to development impacts and climate change.

Apisom received his PhD in Natural Resources from University of Vermont, USA. He holds a M.Eng (Industrial and Management) and a M.Sc (Ecological Economics) from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA. He obtained his B. Eng. in Industrial Engineering from Kasetsart University.



Mr. Chann Aun Tob

Deputy Director, Inland Fisheries
Research and Development Institute
(IFReDI), Fisheries Administration,
Cambodia.

Chann Aun is a fishery biologist whose work is focused on sustainable river management and mainly river connectivity research demonstration to promote region fish passage initiative to ensure sustainable fishery production in Cambodia.

He is a country lead project partner under SUMERNET research fund by collaboration with LAREC-LAO-PDR to demonstrate critical role of rainfall collection to strengthen rural upland community environment communities to restore aquatic animal recruitment and productions. Chann Aun is a country ACIAR-research fund on Translating Fish Passage Research Outcomes into Policy and Legislation Across South East Asia. Chann Aun was assigned by RGC as Vice Chairman of Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative to promote fish passage research and development.



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Session 2: Navigating the politics of water security in times of uncertainty



Prof. Lyu Xing

Professor, School of International Studies of Yunnan University, P.R. China.

Xing Lyu, a professor at the School of International Studies of Yunnan University. Prof. Lyu has been engaged in Lancang-Mekong water issues through research, dialogue and training since 2006.

He has undertaken several research projects, written academic papers, blogs and essays and actively engaged in discussions on issues related to Lancang-Mekong Water from nature, social and political perspectives. He observes that 1) many water issues in Mekong are primarily resulted from climate changes normally or un-normally, 2) geo-political competition may not necessarily lead to political tension but cooperation, and 3) there are other security issues more important than water.



Dr. Bach Tan Sinh

SUMERNET Steering Committee
Co-Chair; Associate Partner,
Viet Insight, Vietnam.

Dr. Bach Tan Sinh is currently Associate Partner of Viet Insight. He received his Ph.D. in Social Environmental Science from Alborg University, Denmark, Master of Science and Technology Policy from Research Policy Institute, University of Lund, Sweden, and B.Sc. in Precision Mechanical Engineering from Ilmenau Technical University, Germany in 1998, 1993, and 1985 respectively.

Dr. Sinh was a post-doctoral Fulbright Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, USA during 1999-2000 and a visiting lecturer and scholar at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, the USA in 2011. He is currently the co-chair of the Steering Committee for SUMERNET, and the founding member of Asialics Innovation Study Network since 2004.



Dr. Carl Middleton

Director, Center for Social Development Studies (CSDS), Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

Carl Middleton is Deputy Director for Research Affairs on the MA in International Development Studies (MAIDS) Program, and Director of the Center for Social Development Studies (CSDS), in the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

His research interests orientate around the politics and policy of the environment in Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on environmental justice and the political ecology of water and energy. He has been collaborating in several major research projects in Southeast Asia, including: a Salween regional water governance study of the Salween River; a Salween-Mekong fellowship program in the Salween, Mekong and Red River Basins; a study on the political ecology of flooding and migration in Southeast Asia; and RECOVER project with SUMER-NET.



Dr. Aung Tun Oo

Technical Advisor, Radanar Ayar Rural Development Association (RARDA), Myanmar.

Aung obtained his PhD at the Department of Agricultural Economics, Ghent University Belgium in 2018. His PhD dissertation is entitled as 'Characterizing farm households' vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in Myanmar'.

His research areas are agricultural economics, natural resource management, climate change, disaster risk reduction, and rural development. He participated in several international scientific conferences with oral contributions and is author and co-author of a number of international peer-reviewed publications. Currently, he serves as a Country Representative of Young Professionals for Agriculture and Rural Development (YPARD) for Myanmar



Dr. Diana Suhardiman

Research Group Leader Water Governance and Inclusion and Senior Researcher Policy and Institutions, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Lao PDR.

Diana Suhardiman is Research Group Leader Water Governance and Inclusion and Senior Researcher Policy and Institutions at the International Water Management Institute, based in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Putting power and politics central in water governance debates, her research highlights the complex and contested nature of water governance across scale, from transboundary to local. Working at the intersection of land, water, environment and energy in various countries in Asia, her research contests the predominantly a-political approach to economic development as means to benefit the greater common goods, and the way transfer of knowledge and technology is framed merely as technical, managerial issues.