

SUMERNET Public Webinar on

“Adaptive research during times of uncertainty – lessons from SUMERNET4 All during the COVID-19 pandemic”

Online ([zoom](#)), 22 June 2023, 14:00 – 15:30 (Bangkok/ICT)

Background

COVID-19 changed life as we know it across the world, impacting peoples' lives in unprecedented ways, both socially and economically for times to come. Amid this tragedy, everyone's first concern was and should be their health and the health of those around them.

As for researchers in particular, the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced a level of uncertainty that has had an adverse impact on the quality of research and shone the light on the need for **contingency planning** to be critical to research design. While some researchers chose to postpone their research until more favorable conditions, others were committed to exploring novel and innovative approaches to conducting research while simultaneously fostering positive relationships with local communities and government agencies.

Several partner grantees under the SUMERNET 4 ALL also encountered similar limitations but a few were adaptive and could design research frameworks which supported them to further their research despite the mobility and access issues imposed by COVID-19.

The objective of this webinar is to showcase the experiences and approaches, with a particular focus on adaptive data collection techniques and methods that enabled them to conduct research during these unprecedented times.

The insights gained from these projects and discussions with experts have the potential to be extrapolated and implemented in analogous situations or during periods of uncertainty in the future. Especially in situations where certain regions or countries become inaccessible as a result of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, or disease outbreaks and/or conflict situations.

Participants

SUMERNET Network and/or Researchers in Mekong region.

Format

This event will be organised mainly in “Online” format, where all participants will attend online. The online event will be recorded for future viewing. For participating in this online event, participants are expected to register prior to the event at:

<https://sei-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkceCgrDsrEtMyOOdYPiF7o4ebZ4i-ZJBO>

Upon successful registration, the online platform will send joining link and/or calendar file to be used by participants to join the webinar on designated date and time.

Agenda (tentative)

Time/Duration	Description	Resource Person
Overall Moderator – Dr Ridhi Saluja (SUMERNET Multistakeholder Engagement Coordinator) Technical Support – Ms Variya Plungwatana (Communications Assistant)		
13:45 – 14:00 (15 min)	The Secretariat will start webinar at zoom, allowing resource persons and participants to join online for testing audio-video.	Ms Variya Plungwatana Ms Unchulee Lualon
14:00 – 14:05 pm (5 min)	Welcome Remarks/ Setting the scene.	Dr Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, Director, SUMERNET4 ALL Programme
14:05 – 14:35 pm (20 min)	Panel Discussion Q1. What were the major challenges faced by your research team during the times of uncertainty (such as COVID 19)? Q2. How can the researchers tackle these challenges – perspective from qualitative and quantitative research point of view? Q3. Does technology offer better solutions, can you give one example of which technology did you use to address the challenges? 2 minutes to respond each question; speaker can prepare one slide as a response to each question. Wrap up (5 minutes)	Dr Nilar Aung, Researcher, East Yangon University, Myanmar Dr Lam Noi, Co-Chair, SUMERNET Steering Committee, Vice Manager of Training and International Cooperation Department and Senior Researcher of SIWRR, Vietnam Dr Paul Pavelic, Senior Researcher, IWMI, Lao PDR
14:35 – 14:50 pm (20 min)	Online data collection and survey tools to support research in times of uncertainty. (Presentation or training mode)	Dr Paul Pavelic, Senior Researcher, IWMI, Lao PD (TBC)
14:50 - 15:00 pm (10 min)	Questions and Answers	Dr Ridhi Saluja
15:00 - 15:20 pm (20 min)	Breakout Session (3 groups) Key discussion points: - Benefits and drawbacks of online research - Limitations of online tools	Group moderators (Representative from SUMERNET)
15:20 – 15:25 pm (20 min)	Key takeaways Post-event evaluation survey for participants	Ms Sushmita Mandal, SUMERNET Research and Policy Coordinator
15:25 – 15:30 pm (5 min)	Way forward	Dr Chantana Wungaeo, Chair, SUMERNET Steering Committee