

# API SEMINAR



**Date & Time:** June 19 (Thu), 2014 15:00-17:30

**Venue:** Tonantei (Room No. 201), Inamori Foundation Memorial Bldg.  
CSEAS, Kyoto University

**Moderator:** Yoko Hayami

## **Program:**

- 15:00-15:30 “Transnational Investments and Responsibility for Social and Environmental Justice: Lessons Learnt from the Industrial Development Policies and Practices of Japan and Thailand”  
By Zaw Aung  
(Research Fellow, Master of Arts Program in International Development Studies, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University)
- 15:30-15:45 Discussion
- 15:45-16:15 “The Gender Question in Buddhism in Japan: Buddhist Women as Spiritual Leaders, Ritual Specialists and Religious Innovators”  
By Lai Suat Yan  
(Senior Lecturer, Gender Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya)
- 16:15-16:30 Discussion
- 16:30-17:00 “Thailand’s Political Conflict: Democracy on the Move”  
By Attachak Sattayanurak  
(Professor, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Chiang Mai University)
- 17:00-17:15 Discussion
- 17:15-17:30 Closing

## **Presentation 1: 15:00-15:30**

### **“Transnational Investments and Responsibility for Social and Environmental Justice: Lessons Learnt from the Industrial Development Policies and Practices of Japan and Thailand”**

**By Zaw Aung**

**(Research Fellow, Master of Arts Program in International Development Studies, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University)**

#### **Abstract**

Like a river running from upstream to downstream, transnational investments are always flowing from the industrialized to industrializing nations particularly in the latter half of the 20th Century. Importing industries to make a nation industrialized was the only option for a developing nation to catch up the developed countries as they perceived that a status of industrial power served as a demarcation line between the developed and developing nations which mostly exist in Asia and Africa. Rising from ashes like a legendary phoenix bird after the 2nd World War, however, Japan exceptionally possessed a status of the industrialized nation first in Asia and became an economic growth model of East and Southeast Asia. Industrialization not simply came with economic prosperity, but it also generated complex webs of social and environmental problems in societies, regardless of a developed or developing nation. Whenever industrial pollutions broke out, the social and environmental injustice was always associated with them. This research studied transnational investments and the responsibility for the social and environmental justice through the case studies in Japan and Thailand.

#### **Brief introduction of Zaw Aung**

He graduated from Master of Arts in International Development Studies at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University in 2008. He received research fellowship awards from M-POWER – CPWF Research Fellowship Program in the Mekong Region for the year 2012–2013 and from The Nippon Foundation Fellowships for Asian Public Intellectuals (API Fellowship Program) for the year 2013–2014.

## **Presentation 2: 15:45-16:15**

### **“The Gender Question in Buddhism in Japan: Buddhist Women as Spiritual Leaders, Ritual Specialists and Religious Innovators”**

**By Lai Suat Yan**

(Senior Lecturer, Gender Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya)

#### **Abstract**

The paper analyzes the role of Buddhist women as catalysts of change in Japan in questioning the secondary position accorded to them institutionally whether as a priest's wife, priestess or a follower. They rewrite the script of Buddhist women as being merely a follower by providing spiritual leadership or being ritual specialists and religious innovators in their tradition. In affirming Buddhist women's agency for equality and mutuality in institutional Buddhism and Buddhist practice in certain traditions, they illustrate the fluidity of being Asian women and signal that Asian Buddhism in its myriad forms is a changing 'tradition'.

#### **Brief Introduction of Lai Suat Yan**

Dr Lai Suat Yan is a Senior Lecturer at the Gender Studies Program, University of Malaya, Malaysia. She is also currently an Asian Public Intellectual Fellowship recipient researching on the gender dynamics in Buddhism in Japan. She has published internationally or in Malaysia on the topic of the women's movement, violence against women and gender and Buddhism. In addition to being one of the co-consultants for the National Report (1st draft) on measures adopted by the Malaysian Government to give effect to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for the Malaysian Government from 1997-1998, she has led a consultancy on the working conditions of lawyers in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor for the Association of Women Lawyers (AWL), the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) and Women's Aid Organization(WAO) in 2013.

## **Presentation 3: 16:30:17:00**

### **“Thailand's Political Conflict: Democracy on the Move”**

**By Attachak Sattayanurak**

(Professor, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Chiang Mai University)

#### **Abstract**

By analyzing the root causes of the political and violent conflict in Thailand, this research will enable us to understand the current situation of the political turmoil, and forecast the future of democracy in Thailand.

#### **Brief Introduction of Attachak Sattayanurak**

Attachak Sattayanurak is a Professor at the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Chiang Mai University, and a Newspaper columnist.