



Know your Researcher **@** **Asian Institute of Technology**

Edition May 2011 : Dr Kyoko Kusakabe

Faculty Profile: Kyoko Kusakabe

Associate Professor

Gender and Development Studies

School of Environment, Resources and
Development

Email: kyokok@ait.ac.th



Research Focus



Mobility and migration

- Labor migration, citizenship, mobile livelihood, connectivity and mobility




Public policy and women's economic empowerment

- Border trade, value chain analysis, street vendors, social security of workers, social enterprise



Gender mainstreaming

- Gender and fisheries/ aquaculture, urban environment management, project management

A woman is walking away from the camera in a rural village. She is carrying a large bundle of pipes on her back, secured with straps. She is also carrying a bag on her head. The background shows traditional wooden and thatched-roof buildings on stilts. The ground is dirt. The overall color scheme is a warm, reddish-brown tint.

Dynamics linking gendered labor migration and industrialization and international trade.

Mobility patterns (daily, long term, cross border) of women and men, and how they are used as a strategy to adjust to socio/economic/ political changes. How has such mobility affect gender identity and power relations?

MOBILITY AND MIGRATION

Mobility and migration

Gender, cross-border migrant workers and citizenship: A case study of the Burmese-Thai border

Project supported by IDRC

In collaboration with Prof. Ruth Pearson, University of Leeds, UK.
Burmese migrant women workers' citizenship and entitlement in both the place of destination and place of origin, and their social reproduction.



Mobility and migration: Burmese migrant workers

See details in:

- Kusakabe, Kyoko and Ruth Pearson (2010) “Transborder migration, social reproduction and economic development: A case study of Burmese women workers in Thailand”, *International Migration*, 48:6.
- Illegal, temporary, and precarious states of being: Migration*, Art exhibition catalogue, 15-28 February 2010, Pridi Bhanomyong Institute, Bangkok.
- Pollock, Jackie, Ruth Pearson, and Kyoko Kusakabe (2010) “Policy brief and recommendation on undocumented labour migration in Thailand”



IDRC CRDI Canada



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Mobility and migration

Mobile livelihoods and gendered citizenship: The counter-geographies of indigenous people in India, China and Laos



Project supported by Norwegian
Research Council

In partnership with Prof. Ragnhild
Lund, NTNU, Norway, Dr. Smita
Mishra, HDF, India, Dr. Wang
Yunxian, Shanghai Academy of
Social Science

Mobility of ethnic groups in
Northern Laos and their changing
livelihoods under
industrialization, increasing trade
and investment, and government
policy for relocation.

Mobility and migration

Capacity building for gender, poverty and mobility analysis of road transportation development in GMS region

Project supported by ASEAN Foundation

In partnership with Public Works and Transport Institute, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lao PDR; Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia; ECODEV, Myanmar; Transport Development and Strategy Institute, Vietnam.

Gender/ poverty analysis of impact of cross-border road development and regional trade in GMS.

Focus on changing mobility patterns and gender relations.



With global industrialization and increased trade, how are women's economic opportunities changing?
How have such changes affected empowerment of women?
Special focus on informal economy and border areas in Greater Mekong Subregion.

PUBLIC POLICY AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Public policy and women's economic empowerment

Women negotiating the borders: Marketing route and cross-border trade of inland fish between Thailand and Cambodia

Project supported by PAMS-NCCR N-S
In collaboration with Thailand Gender in Fisheries Network, Department of Fisheries, Thailand; and CEDAC, Cambodia



- Official opening of the border and its effect on business opportunities for small women cross border fish traders.
- Value chain analysis of fish trade.
- See also: Kusakabe, et al. (2008) "Gendering border spaces: Impact of open border policy between Cambodia-Thailand on small-scale women fish traders", *African and Asian Studies*, 7.1, 1-17.

Public policy and women's economic empowerment

Gender roles and conflicts in border trade: Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos

Project supported by ASEAN Foundation

Public policy's effect on border trade of woven material, fish, bamboo handicraft, and its impact on gender roles and practices.



See also:

- Kusakabe, Kyoko and Zin Mar Oo (2007) "Relational places of Burman women migrants in the borderland town of Tachilek, Myanmar", *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, Vol. 28, 2007 pp.300-313.
- Kusakabe, Kyoko (2004) "Women's work and market hierarchies along the border of Lao PDR", *Gender, Place and Culture*, Vol.11, No.4, December 2004, pp.581-594.
- Kusakabe, Kyoko (2008) "Gender ideology and international borders along the borders of Thailand, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia", in Martin Gainsborough (ed) *On the borders of state power: Frontiers in the Greater Mekong Sub-region Past and Present*, Routledge.

Public policy and women's economic empowerment

Street vendors

Women dominate street vending in Southeast Asia, and they are one of the most vulnerable group of people in the urban areas in terms of their claim for rights for livelihood.

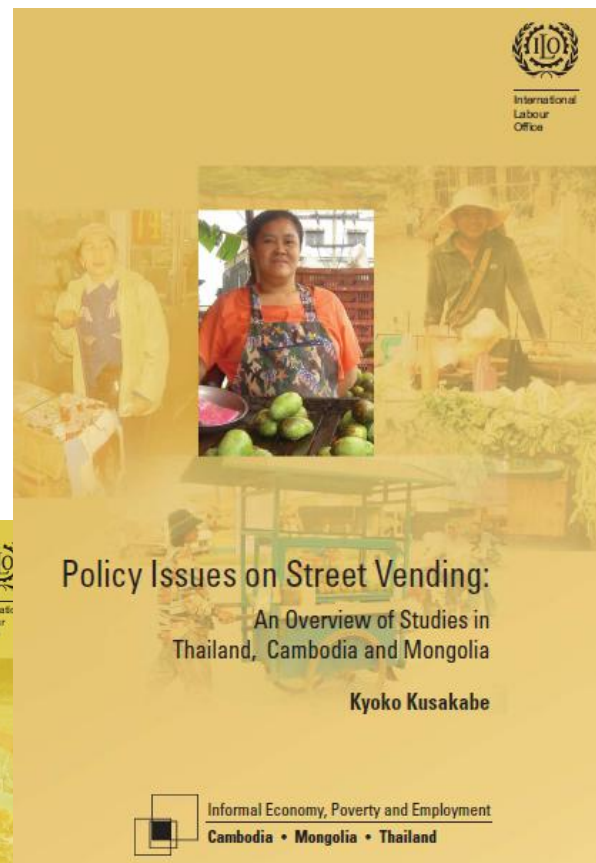
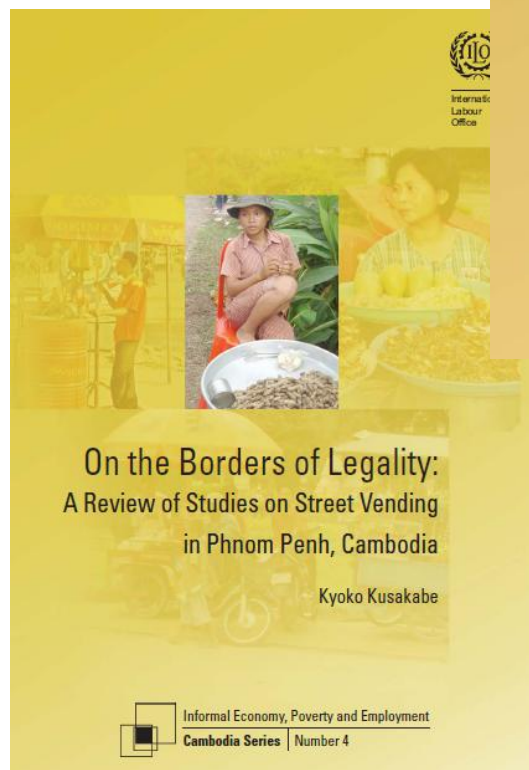


Projects

- Fighting poverty, fighting the market: Street vendors in Cambodia
- Micro-vendors' association's leadership in the development of a solid waste management system in Daem Kor Market, Phnom Penh: A process documentation (supported by CIDA)
- Social capital of women micro-vendors in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Publications with ILO

- Kusakabe, Kyoko (2006) *On the borders of legality: A review of studies on street vending in Phnom Penh, Cambodia*, Informal economy, poverty and employment, Cambodia Series No. 4, International Labour Organization, International Labour Office Bangkok.
- Kusakabe, Kyoko (2006) *Policy issues in street vending: Overview of studies in Thailand, Cambodia and Mongolia*, Informal economy, poverty and employment, International Labour Organization, Bangkok.



Public policy and women's economic empowerment

Social security and labor rights of factory workers

Increase in unprotected workers under globalized economy and neo liberal development policy.

Precariousness of the status of agency workers; Lack of support for factory workers to balance work and family.; Exploring win-win situation for labor and employer through CSR.



Projects:

- Globalization of economy and the structural change of gender relations in Asia (supported by Japan society for Promotion of Science in collaboration with Yamaguchi University, etc.)
- Escaping the middle income trap: Targeted and pragmatic policies for technological upgrading and worker-inclusive industrial strategies as drawn from firm-level analysis of the Philippines and Thailand (supported by the Netherlands organisation for Scientific Research in collaboration with Erasmus School of Economics and Rotterdam School of Management; University of the Philippines)

Public policy and women's economic empowerment

Social enterprise and women's economic empowerment

Will social enterprise strengthen women's empowerment and how?

Project:

Feasibility study of Bottom of the Pyramid (BOP) business development through social investment: Survey on BOP group in Cambodia and social impact assessment on wild honeybee resourcification project. (supported by JICA through ARUN LLC.)




©ARUN LLC.



©ARUN LLC.





Involvement in gender mainstreaming initiatives provide an important inter-face between research and practice.

Project/ program level gender mainstreaming involving organization analysis and project management.

Sector-wide gender mainstreaming involving analysis of the sector and identifying gender issues in the specific sector.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender Mainstreaming

Gender and fisheries/ aquaculture



Projects:

Technology transfer of commercializing freshwater aquaculture in Northeast Thailand (supported by RTG in collaboration with Chulalongkorn University and Department of Fisheries)

Women in aquaculture project (supported by APEC and DFID in collaboration with Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling)

Network:

Gender and Fisheries Network

Gender Mainstreaming

Urban Environment Management

Project:

Southeast Asia Urban Environment Management Application Program
(SEA-UEMA) (partnership between CIDA-AIT)

Development of gender mainstreaming strategies/ approaches and
gender analysis framework for UEM.



Tools/ framework/ publications

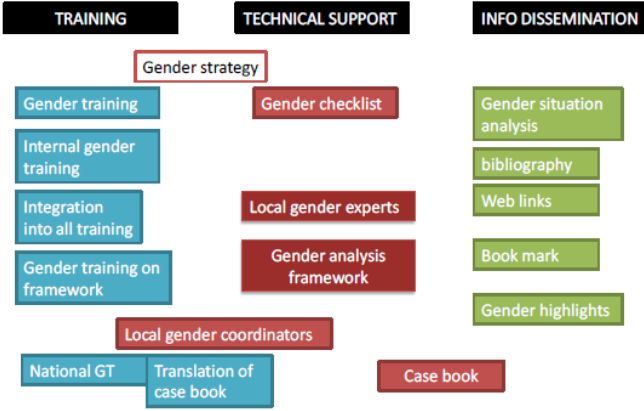
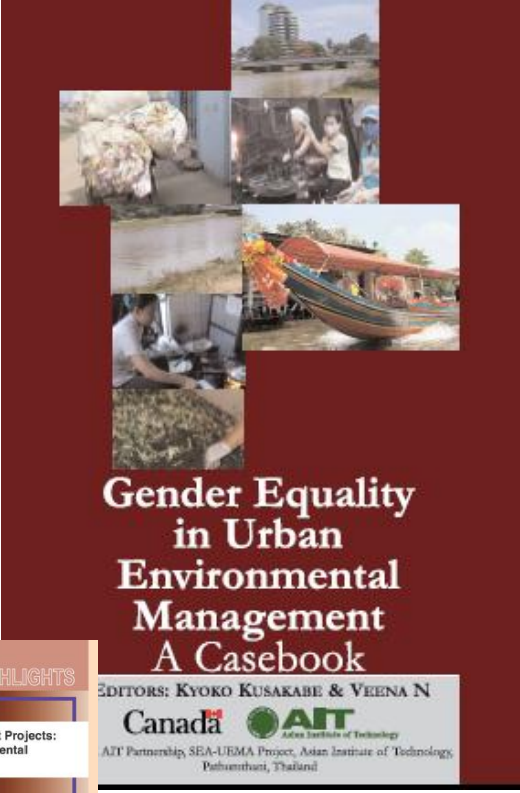
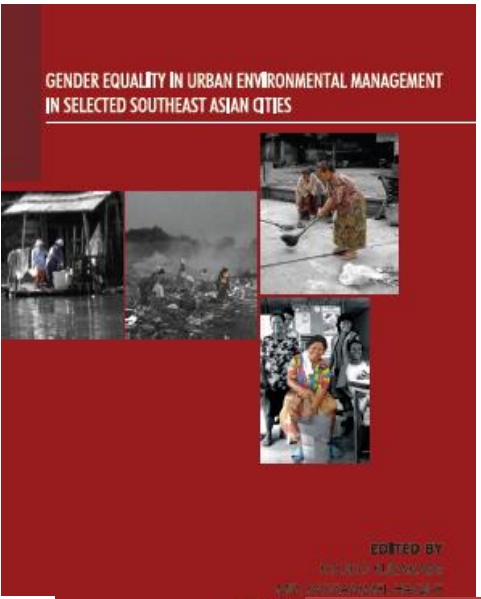
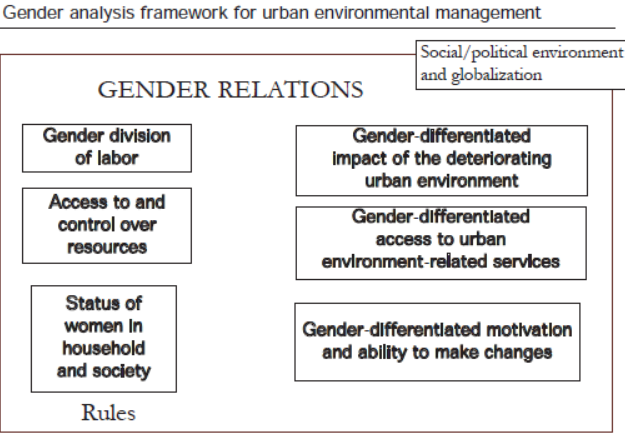


Figure 1: The summary of the gender mainstreaming strategies in SEA-UEMA project



Gender Mainstreaming

Development project management

Contextualize and customize gender planning and mainstreaming processes.
Gender monitoring and evaluation.

Projects:

- Asian Project Management Support Programme, International Fund for Agricultural Development
- Strengthening Gender Mainstreaming Capabilities in IFAD Projects in Cambodia and Laos



See also: Kusakabe, K. (2005) "Gender mainstreaming in government offices in Thailand, Cambodia and Laos: Perspectives from Below", *Gender and development*, OXFAM journal 13:2.

Consultancy on gender mainstreaming with: World Bank, UNDP, UNFPA, JICA

Journal: Gender, Technology and Development



- Published by Sage
- Three times a year

Editors:

Merete Lie, Ragnhild Lund, Mari Osawa, Thanh-Dam Truong

Associate Editors:

Kyoko Kusakabe, Bernadette Resurreccion, Jonathan Shaw

Managing editor: Veena N.

Graduate courses taught

- Gender and Development: Principles and concepts
- Gender, Enterprise and Organizations
- Gender Analysis and Gender-Responsive Development Planning
- Gender and Transportation Management: Issues and policies
- Research methodology for gender, poverty and mobility analysis of road transportation development in GMS region
- Gender analysis for Urban Environmental Management
- Gender issues in regional economic integration in the Greater Mekong Subregion
- Disaster risk management (institute-wide course)



Thank You

If you would like to highlight your research activities do send in your inputs to

scpo@ait.ac.th