

**Retreat Brochure and Tentative schedule**  
**Inaugural Retreat of the Ostrom Center for the Advanced Study of Natural Resources Governance (OCeAN) at the Asian Institute of Technology**

June 14-16, 2016; AIT Conference Center and June 17-19, Chiang Mai University:

Throughout Asia, degradation of natural resources is happening at a higher rate and is a primary environmental concern throughout. Recent tragedies associated with climate change have clear foot prints on the deforestation, land degradation and water course changing. A significant proportion of land use conversion is undertaken through rural activities, where resource degradation and deforestation is often the result of overexploitation by users who make resource-use decisions based on a complex matrix of options and potential outcomes. Governments, NGOs, and academics have been searching for appropriate policy recommendations that will mitigate the trend of natural resource degradation. By promoting effective policy and building the capacity of key stakeholders, it is envisioned that sustainable development can be promoted at both the top-down and bottom-up perspectives. Capacity building in the field of natural resources management and poverty alleviation is then an urgent need and several policy alternatives have been suggested (Inoue and Shivakoti, 2015; Inoue and Isozaki, 2003; Webb and Shivakoti, 2008).

The importance of informed policy guidance in the sustainable governance and management of common pool resources (CPRs) in general has been recognized due to conflicting and competing demand and uses of these resources in the changing economic context in Asia (Balooni and Inoue, 2007; Nath, Inoue and Chakma 2005; Pulhin, Inoue and Enters 2007; Shivakoti and Ostrom, 2008; Viswanathan and Shivakoti 2008). This is because these resources are unique in their respect, management of these resources are public in partnership with state and local community but the benefits are at the individual and private level in a day-to-day basis. These issues get further complicated considering the inter-relationship among the related resources and CPRs as mediated by institutional arrangement and its implications for management of CPR in an integrated manner vis-a-vis poverty reduction. In the larger virtual environmental context, the benefits and costs have global implications. There are several modes of governance and management arrangement of these resources with partnership of private-public range. Several issues related to governance and management need to be addressed which can directly feed in the ongoing policy efforts of decentralization and poverty reduction measures in Asia. The central issues of importance that the OCeAN places its emphasis include the following:

- Means and ways to make economic growth prudent together with holding natural resources intact;
- Effects of decentralization of natural management rights on the resource conditions including the concerns of gender and social inclusion in the process;
- Assessment of the sustainability of efforts to improve the productive capacity of CPR systems in the context of current debate on the effects of climate change through initiative and implementation of new programs such as PES and REDD+;
- Integration of multiple methods of information gathering and analysis on CPRs in the national natural resource policy guidelines and the results used by local managers and users of CPRs, government agencies and scholars.
- Identification of effective polycentric policy approaches for governance and management of CPRs which are environmentally sustainable and balanced.

The Ostrom Center for the Advanced Study of Natural Resources Governance (OCeAN) has identified the following activities in order to explore these issues.

- (a) Organize book retreat to plan on documenting more field based location specific natural resources issues from rural Asia
- (b) Host senior scholars discussions on drafting advanced theoretical volumes on the issues related to governance and management of natural resources
- (c) Organize and support one to two weeks training annually at AIT for drafting high impact factor environmental and natural resources related journals and / or plan editing special issues of these journals for faculty and advanced doctoral students by inviting similar research center scholars from major global universities.
- (d) Organize Policy dialogue on “Improving Governance and management of Natural Resources” through collaboration among the high level decision-makers.
- (e) Organize Grants writing Workshops for submitting competitive proposals to the major funding organizations.

The inaugural retreat planned for June 13-15, 2016 in AIT Conference Center and follow-up related activity in Chiang Mai during June 16-18, 2016 in Chiang Mai University will focus on activities (a) in AIT retreat and (d) in Chiang Mai retreat. In AIT, The retreat will identify chapter contributors, volume editors for S and SE Asia and Africa as well as author for the seminal volume. In addition, we will explore potential publishers and future support needs. These volumes will be dedicated to Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom. We will focus on three volumes in AIT:

June 14, 2016

- 8.30-12.30 Climate Change, Social Ecological System and the Agricultural and Natural Resources Adaptation South Asia \_\_ Governance Challenges
- 1.30-5.30 Climate Change, Social Ecological System and the Agricultural and Natural Resources Adaptation in Africa \_\_ Governance Challenges

June 15, 2016

- 8.30-12.30 Climate Change, Social Ecological System and the Agricultural and Natural Resources Adaptation in SE Asia \_\_ Governance Challenges.
- 2.00-5.00 We will explore possibilities of planning edited and (co)authored volumes on the issues related to governance and management of common pool resources in Asia and Africa.

June 16, 2016

- 8.30-12.30 Effective Grants writing and networking among OceAN network scholars for academic research.  
Planning special issue of International Journal of the Commons (IJC) related to natural resources governance (Science-society interface): This special issue will be dedicated to the principal authorship from Developing Countries as there is very less publications from these areas. Experience sharing from the Panel of Experts who have already published will be focus of discussion.

Afternoon: Travel to Chiang Mai

Number of participants for the AIT Retreat: 25-30

AIT Organizing Committee: Ganesh Shivakoti, Rajendra Shrestha and Nicolas Faysse.

**Policy Brief and Planning special issue of Ecological Economics Journal at Chiang Mai University, June 17-19, 2016.**

**June 17, 2016**

A. ASU, AIT and CMU have collaborated on an NSF research project to understand Social Ecological System dynamics, livelihood adjustment plans and adaptation measures of Farmers in the Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems of Chiang Mai valley in the context of climate change. We conducted field study of 30 community irrigation systems in Chaing Mai during 2013. The results are now analyzed and we would like to present the findings back to the policy stakeholders and farmer game players. Similar games were played in Nepal, China and Columbia; and we would like to posit the Chiang Mai community managed irrigation systems on a comparative perspective and the lessons that can be learned from each other. The purpose of the policy brief Workshop is:

- (1) To present findings of field results of Game played with the community members of 30 irrigation systems in Chiang Mai valley.
- (2) To discuss the system level analysis on socio-economic and policy issues related to community irrigation issues based on the system level information analyzed.
- (3) To present social ecological system related dynamics of farmer managed irrigation systems of Chaing Mai valley in its comparative perspectives with Nepal, China and Columbia.
- (4) To present policy briefs (both in English and Thai language) to the stakeholders involved in farmer managed irrigation intervention.
- (5) To bring back relevant information from field research to the farmers and system level managers.

**June 18, 2016**

This workshop will be followed by field visit in the community irrigation system area and will be a dialogue forum between the workshop participants and the representatives of community irrigation group members.

**June 19, 2016**

B. We are also planning one day session on planning special issue of Ecological Economics in which there will be selected papers based on the NSF research project and additional possible papers will be discussed for consideration from among the presentation at AIT.

The Chiang Mai Organizing Committee:

Dr. Poon Thiengburanathum  
Dr. Juthathip Chalermphol  
Dr. Nathitakarn Pinthukas  
Dr. Shivakoti  
Dr. Bastakoti