MISSION

The Center for Social Development Studies produces interdisciplinary critical research on innovative, inclusive and sustainable regional development in Southeast Asia.

We seek to engage in policy-making through undertaking research in partnership with those facing development challenges, collaborating in research, policy and academic networks, and by sharing our research publicly.

We support young and mid-career researchers and public intellectuals via the Master of Arts in International Development Studies (MAIDS) program, the Graduate Research in International Development (GRID) program, and the Faculty of Political Science, and through our fellowship programs and internships.

We organize seminars, conferences, and workshops to provide a forum for debating critical issues on development.

RECENT EVENTS

- International Conference on the Salween, Mekong and Red Rivers (November 2016)
- Societies and Environments in Southeast Asia seminar series co-hosted with IRASEC
- WriteShop for Salween, Mekong and Red River Fellowship program (March 2017)
- Public seminar on “The Politics of the 2011 Bangkok Floods” (May 2017)
- Water and the Neighborhood: A study tour for media from South Asia (August 2017)

Contact Us

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HISTORY

The Center for Social Development Studies (CSDS) was established in the Faculty of Political Science in 1985. It was established to undertake interdisciplinary research linking across the various fields of political science and more broadly in the social sciences, and to provide support in education, research, and teaching. Working towards these goals, in 2006, the CSDS supported the launch of the MA in International Development Studies (MAIDS) program (www.maid-chula.org). The CSDS is guided by a Board of faculty staff from the Faculty of Political Science, and chaired by the Dean.

Further details on CSDS, including upcoming events and activities, our publications (research reports, academic papers and books, policy briefs, and blogs), and our partnerships and funders are available at: www.csd-chula.org

RESEARCH THEMES

- Political ecology and resource politics
- Regionalization in Southeast Asia and Asia
- Human rights, human security and justice
- Knowledge and innovation
- Public sphere, democratization and the commons
- Training regional researchers

PARTNERSHIPS

As we seek to promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, our partnerships are important for co-production of knowledge methodologies in research. Our recent projects have collaborated with: universities in Southeast Asia and beyond; NGOs and civil society organizations; research institutes; and government organizations. To encourage collaborative research, knowledge exchange and capacity building, we also host Research Associates, Visiting Researchers, and interns.

RECENT RESEARCH

- Professional Development of Water Governance and Regional Development Practitioners in the Salween Basin
- Matching policies, institutions and practices of water governance in the Salween-Thanlwin-Nu River Basin
- Recovering and valuing wetland agro-ecological systems and local knowledge for water security and community resilience in the Mekong region (RECOVER)
- Seeking “Arenas of Justice” on Transboundary Rivers: A Rights-Based Approach to the Food-Water-Energy Nexus on the Salween and Mekong River
- Water governance and access to water in Hakha Town, Chin State, Myanmar
- Transdisciplinary research methods on environmental change, migration and social inequality (KNOTS)