

Climate Change and Comparative Study on Floods Governance and Disasters Session I
Discussion

Dr. Bach Tan Sinh:

“I very much enjoyed these presentations on behalf of our discussions [inaudible] at the community, national and transnational levels. How can our research extend to the government and community levels in the sense that they can be used by governments for policy as well as regular communities? I would like to open the floor for discussion”

Unidentified speaker:

“I just wanted to pick up on your point in regards to Dr. Chantana’s questions to the movement [inaudible]. [Inaudible].

Unidentified speaker:

[Question inaudible]

Unidentified speaker:

[Speaker begins comments without microphone]. “Under all this, there is the basic principle of equity – how to share resources equally. That’s a very key issue today. Equity is affected by relations and also evidenced by the need for further cooperation.”

Unidentified speaker:

“Thank you. I think I want to touch on the [inaudible] dimension and the economic dimension of course – we’re saying China, but by China, we all mean [inaudible]. We need to look at Thailand and other countries in the region. In fact, some people say that Thailand is the main investor, not China, and it is because of [inaudible] concerns. So the issue of linking the UN framework could be useful in terms of not linking issues with others – now we’re dealing with the impact but of course energy policy taken by the greater Mekong region supported by the banks and so on needs to be brought into the picture. I don’t think the issue is only Asian coordination. It’s an issue of strong interests and developmental models that are being implemented in these regions. The idea is that some countries are going to provide energy and others are going to use that energy. This will be even more critical because of climate change. I think we need to see the broader picture. The World Bank is really big in dams these days. For a while they abstained from getting involved in the construction of dams, but these days, they’re supporting them. Investors are coming from many other countries. It’s not only the country where the dam is being built but also who is investing and who is going to use all this energy that is going to be produced. Vietnam is building dams; Thailand is building dams; it’s a chain of construction.”

Unidentified speaker:

“Professor Vitit’s comments are more interesting than my question. The existing International Relations model indicates that things are not exactly working. What we talk about doesn’t seem to come into reality. [Inaudible].”

Unidentified speaker:

“I think we touched on the question of the [inaudible] and I think we really see that something [inaudible]. [Inaudible].

Unidentified speaker:

“I think the multilateral system is only as good at implementation on the domestic level. To that extent, the government has so many international commitments. They will be strong, that is, the international multilateral system. The norms set up will be perpetuated. I think that is where regional aspects are so crucial because it helps countries implement their commitments. With that psyche you can enforce the norms. There’s nothing wrong with the norms or the agreements but they are often lost in the implementation of the commitments. For example, we can look at the case of endangered species agreements. Is it often a failure of psyche or implementation at the regional level? I believe that this can be solved by focusing on the regional level consequences.”

[Session ends]