

THE CONTRIBUTORS

(in alphabetical order according to names as they are spelt)

A snapshot of the contributors in their own words is provided here (information as of April 2014)

Abhayuth Chantrabha is an activist who has been working with the urban poor in Thailand for more than 20 years. After graduating from Thammasat University in 1989, he began working as a community organizer, a profession that he still practices today. He is currently the coordinator of Community Organization for Peoples' Action (COPA), an NGO that specializes in organizing urban poor communities, and an adviser to the Four Regions Slum Network (FRSN), a Thai national federation consisting of slum dwellers and the homeless. In addition to his own community organizing work, Abhayuth has also taken on responsibilities as a trainer, passing on his skills and knowledge about the art of community organizing to members of the younger generation.

Albertus Yustinus Imas is a Dayak researcher who has had fifteen years of work and experience in field research on the Dayak ethnic group as indigenous peoples of Borneo. He studied at the National University of Malaysia (UKM-ATMA) during 2000-2004, specializing in the field of linguistics, which has supported his work as a researcher on Dayak issues. Currently, he is the Director of Narmac Institute (Natural Resource Management Collaboration Institute). His work with the WWF on a High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) project in 2006-2007, the European Commission on a FLEGT project in 2007-2010 and the Indonesian Forestry Department on a project pertaining to watershed management planning in West Kalimantan 2010-2011 encouraged him to focus on natural resource management planning as his recent professional interest.

Fadzilah Majid Cooke is Professor of Sociology at the School of Social Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu. She has been teaching, researching and publishing on environmental justice for almost two decades, especially on issues of customary land, natural resource policy and its implications for community development in East Malaysia and, more recently, in the Philippines and Thailand. In addition to lecturing and supervising undergraduate and postgraduate students, Fadzilah actively cooperates with non-government organizations as well as government agencies at the local and national levels. She was awarded a Ph.D. by Griffith University, Australia in 1996. She has been a member of the scientific advisory committee for the social sciences, the International Foundation for Science of Sweden, since 2008.

Firly Afwika is a Digital Strategist. She gained a Bachelor of Humanities at University of Indonesia in 2008. Her research interest in culture and tourism resulted in her developing a research study on Malaysia's tourism branding "Truly Asia". She is interested to take some lessons from Malaysia's bold experience in developing its tourism industry by using its diversity as a unique selling point. Currently Firly works as Digital Consultant for Sekretariat Kabinet RI, developing an online brand presence for the Indonesian Government. With her various experiences in digital services and strategies for major regional brands, she has established plans and communication strategies for sizeable online campaigns for many reputable brands.

Henri Ismail has been a professional photographer since 2005, specializing in social documentary photography. In the last few years, his work has focused on mining issues, indigenous people, human rights, poverty and other matters related to social justice. His works have been published in various mainstream media including *The Jakarta Post* and *FORUM* and in scholarly publications such as *Inside Indonesia*. With his photographer fellows, Henri co-founded Poros Photos, an initiative to develop social documentary photography in Indonesia.

Kam Suan Pheng, a science researcher, studied at the University of Science Malaysia (B.Sc. with Education) and Cornell University (Masters and Ph.D. in Agronomy – Soil Science). She taught at the University of Science Malaysia for 13 years before joining the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines for 10 years and is now into her ninth year with the World Fish Center in Penang, Malaysia. Her academic research involves applying geographical information systems and remote sensing techniques in agriculture and natural resources management. She also has broader professional interests in integrated and participatory approaches for greater relevance and impact of agricultural research to poor rural communities.

Khuat Thu Hong is the founder and co-director of the Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS), a non-governmental research organization located in Hanoi, Vietnam. She has a B.A. in psychology from Moscow National University in 1984 and a Ph.D. in sociology from the Institute of Sociology, Vietnam, in 1996. Hong's major fields of study include gender, sexuality and health. In the last few years she has actively engaged in research and advocacy on civil society, social justice and social inclusion.

Lambang Trijono is a political sociologist and peace advocate. He is a lecturer at the Faculty of Social and Political Science, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia. He has been Director of the Peace and Development Initiative (Padii Institute), in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 2006 to the present. He was formerly Director of the Center for Security and Peace Studies (CSPS), Gadjah Mada University from 2003 to 2005 and has been a researcher at the CSPS from 1997 to the present. He has been serving as coordinator of the Southeast Asian Conflict Studies Networks (SEACSN)-Indonesia since 2001. From 2010 to the present, Lambang has been working on his Ph.D. at the Research and Education for Peace Unit, Universiti Sains Malaysia (REP-USM). He has published several books, among them *Keluar dari Kemelut Maluku* (Pustaka Pelajar, 2001), *The Making of Ethnic and Religious Conflicts in Southeast Asia: Cases and Solutions* (editor and contributor of two chapters, CSPS Books, 2004), *Potret Retak Nusantara* (editor, CSPS Books, 2005).

Lutgardo L. Labad (Gardy) is a theater director, a multi-awarded drama and film music composer, cultural impresario and a cultural development specialist. Once a major theater curriculum developer of the Philippine Educational Theater Association and the Cultural Officer of the Provincial Government of Bohol, he has been the head of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts National Committee on Dramatic Arts from 2011-2013. He has worked extensively with local governments, arts councils, NGOs and peoples' organizations, on cultural development planning focused on how heritage and the arts can be harnessed as community-based creative industries for sustainable development. He recently founded Likha Asya, a convergence of Asian artists, culture and tourism players to enhance exchange and solidarity on community theater, creative industries and community-based tourism, a direct offshoot of his API Fellowships to which he owes a debt of immense gratitude.

Mochamad Indrawan currently works as Executive Secretary, Center for Biodiversity Strategies, Faculty of Mathematics and Sciences (FMIPA), Universitas Indonesia. By training, Indrawan is a field biologist whose work focuses on the conservation of biological diversity. However, recently, Indrawan enhanced his engagement with the social dimension of natural resources, especially traditional ecological knowledge and local perception for the sustainability of resources. Indrawan has senior-authored a now reprinted textbook *Biologi Konservasi* (2007) published by Yayasan Obor Indonesia. He has also authored articles published in peer reviewed journals such as *Biodiversity and Conservation*, *Journal for Environmental Planning and Management*, *Tropical Biodiversity*, and *Development in Practice*. For his API Fellowships, Indrawan undertook the position of visiting researcher at Kyushu University's Faculty of Agriculture, Environmental Economics Laboratory, from August 1, 2011 to July 30, 2012. Indrawan researched the *satoiyama* system of Japan, which complemented his analysis of similar rich systems in Indonesia.

Mucha-Shim L. Quiling is a cultural worker and human rights defender, having worked in non-government organizations during the past 20 years and in academe as college faculty and researcher for over 10 years. She is the founding director of the Lumah Ma Dilaut Center for Living Traditions, a social development organization working for the preservation and re-invigoration of indigenous knowledge systems of the Orang Suluk, specifically the Sama communities in Sulu and Zamboanga peninsula. Her API research allowed her to retrace the route of trading, migration, expansion and the subsequent diasporization of the 18th century Suluk maritime society in the old Nusantara region covering Indonesia, Borneo, and Sulu in Southern Philippines. She finished her Masters of Arts at the Ateneo de Manila University and is a Ph.D. candidate in Inter-religious Studies at the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS) of the Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Nguyen Trinh Thi is a Hanoi-based documentary filmmaker and video artist. She received her M.A. in Journalism from the University of Iowa in 1999 and her Master of International Pacific Studies from the University of California, San Diego in 2005. Her moving image work—including documentary and experimental films, single-channels and video installations—consistently engage with memory and history and reflect on the roles and positions of art and artists in society and the environment. She has taken part in international exhibitions such as Singapore Biennale 2013; Jakarta Biennale 2013; *Move on Asia: Video Art in Asia 2002 to 2012* (ZKM Museum of Contemporary Art, Germany 2013); *Women in Between: Asian Women Artists 1984-2012* (Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan 2012); and Kuandu Biennale (Taiwan 2010). Nguyen also has founded and directs Hanoi DOCLAB, a center for documentary films and the moving image, since 2009.

Norhayati Kaprawi was trained as a civil engineer. After a decade in her engineering career, she began to be involved in women’s activism. She is a member and trainer in a Malaysian Muslim women’s organization that advocates for gender justice in Islam. She later ventured into producing documentary films highlighting Malaysian issues, primarily Muslim women’s issues. Amongst her films are *Mencari Kartika* (about a Muslim woman who was sentenced to six lashes for drinking alcohol), *Aku Siapa* (on the issue of wearing the veil in Malaysia) and *Anak Tak Sab Taraf* (on the status of Muslim children born out of wedlock). Her films have been widely screened and used as teaching materials in universities in Malaysia and in Singapore, Indonesia and Germany.

Noriko Ishimatsu is a research fellow of the Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies at the Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan. She studied at the Kyushu University (Ph.D. in Social and Cultural Studies) and the Goldsmiths College, University of London (M.A. in Art History in the 20th century), and worked as coordinator for international relations at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum. Her research subject is contemporary art and cultural studies focusing on non-Western artists in the UK and Southeast Asia.

Patporn Phoothong is currently a researcher and project coordinator at The Initiative of Museum and Library for Peace, Peace Information Centre and Asian Muslim Action Network. This project is a follow-up initiative of the research “Towards Peace and Reconciliation: Case Studies of Peace Museums in Japan and Philippines” supported by the API Fellowships Program. Her research focuses on political violence of the past, collective memories and oral history. Patporn has also written on peace museums and collective memories in Japan, Korea and Thailand.

Pornsiri Cheevapattananuwong is a lecturer in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mahasarakham University, Thailand. Her research interests include the impacts of environmental changes on local communities, health impact assessments (HIA) and their implications for community

empowerment and environment-educational activities for youth. She has worked as assistant to the campaign manager and coordinator of the Solar Generation Project (youth project) for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Thailand. She was research assistant for the 10 Years of the Pak Moon Dam Movement Project in Thailand.

Pradit Prasartthong (Tua) was Director of the Makhampom Theater Group, a grassroots media foundation in Bangkok, for 30 years. Having worked with grassroots communities from both the rural and urban sectors, he has built a network using theater workshop processes and productions for advocacy and involving other sectors of society, including concerned artists, students and middle class communities. Pradit left Makhampom in 2011 and set up the Anatta Theater Troupe in 2012. He has been the secretary general of the Bangkok Theater Network since 2002. Pradit was part of *Loban's Journey*, an Asian theater collaboration project with 15 other directors from Asia in 2003-2005. The project was organized by the Setagaya Public Theater Foundation of Japan. He was also an Asian Cultural Council (ACC New York) grantee in 2004. In the year 2004, the office of Contemporary Art and Culture (OCAC) honored Pradit as winner of its first Silpathorn Awards in the field of contemporary performing arts.

Somchai Phatharathananunth teaches politics at Mahasarakham University in Northeast Thailand. He has been involved in social movements in northeast Thailand (Isaan) since the 1970s. He gained his Ph.D. from the University of Leeds in 2001. His thesis *Civil Society and Democratization: Social Movements in Northeast Thailand* was published by the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies in 2006.

Susanna George has been engaged in and committed to the women's movement and the development sector for over two decades as a communications professional, a women's human rights activist, trainer, writer, change process and meeting facilitator and organizational development consultant. She was the executive director of an international feminist organization, Isis International Manila, for over six years and is currently one of its Board members. Susanna is keenly interested in emergent change processes in group and organizational contexts and in experimenting with spaces that enhance greater self-reflexivity, creativity and honest conversations in social movement contexts.

Syongsay Changpitikoun is a development professional currently working as a program officer at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. He received a Bachelor's Degree of Education Science at the National University of Laos in 1998. Since then he has worked for a variety of development organizations in the fields of community development, emergency relief, child rights and educational development in Lao PDR. He obtained an M.A. in 2009 at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

Tawatchai Pattanaporn, photographer, delivers social issues to the public by conveying his message in the form of photography.

Toshiyuki Doi is a doctoral student at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia, Mahidol University at Salaya in Thailand. Toshiyuki also works as senior advisor for Mekong Watch, a Japanese NGO which monitors development projects and policies in Mekong countries (i.e., Burma/Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and southern China), especially those relating to Japanese public and private funds. His research interests include sociolinguistics, ethnography of speaking, language learning/teaching, language in development, literacy, languages in Southeast Asia, involuntary resettlement, and international financial institutions, especially the Asian Development Bank (ADB).