



Chulalongkorn University Right Livelihood Summer School (CURLS) 2016 The COMMONS, COMPASSION & COMMUNITIES

Organizing partners:

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (CU); Royal University of Bhutan, (RUB); Right Livelihood College (RLC); Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF), Thailand

Rationale:

Once we cultivate genuine compassion, the soil is prepared to receive seeds of happiness. Communities grow and shape ‘the commons’.

Seeds are essential for our livelihoods, for our food and the security of future generations. Private and public property regimes are not sufficient to match with the challenges of sustainable development. **When we take good care of the Earth, grow our food with dignity and organize our consumption sustainably, we can speak of “Right Livelihood”.** For achieving this goal we have to re-examine our worldviews and re-think the governance paradigms ruling our world. Land-grabbing, seed dependency and corporate strategies to get hold of our lives by means of intellectual property challenge the very foundations of our Human Security. Our challenge is to re-create ‘the commons’ and explore common property or “trusteeship”.

General background:

Since 1980 the work of outstanding activists, practitioners and visionaries is recognized with the **Right Livelihood Award** (known as the Alternative Nobel Prize) during an annual ceremony in the Swedish Parliament. **Sulak Sivaraksa** is a Right Livelihood laureate with his home base in Thailand. He founded the Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF) in 1968. It grew into a lively umbrella for independent civil society organisations and social enterprises.

Later a pioneering laureate, **Anwar Fazal**, consumer activist, Malaysia, founded the **Right Livelihood College** as an international network of universities and learning

centres providing a platform for interaction and exchanges with Right Livelihood laureates.

In addition, the **Right Livelihood Summer School** enables laureates annually to multiply their transformative insights through informal personal contact and mutual learning processes. The Right Livelihood Summer School is organized by a partnership of **Chulalongkorn University**, Bangkok, Thailand (where it is based); **The Royal University of Bhutan**, Thimphu; the **Right Livelihood College** with its secretariat in Bonn and the **Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF)**, also based in Bangkok, Thailand. Together they shape a *Wellbeing Studies Programme*. In this framework we celebrate the annual **Chulalongkorn University Right Livelihood Summer School, in brief CURLS**.

The video of last years' summer school CURLS 2015 *Action Research: Empowering Right Livelihood* can be viewed here:

<https://wellbeingsummer.wordpress.com/2015/09/13/a-summary-video-of-the-curls-2015/>

CURLS 2016: now in Thailand and Bhutan

Participants can register for the summer school (part I) in Thailand or (part II) in Bhutan separately; or for both parts. Participants will travel to Bhutan through Bangkok. An overlapping weekend with public exchanges 23 – 24 July, and final presentations 7 August at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok will bind the two parts together. Maximum number of participants of each group is 24. Fluent English is a requirement.

Thailand 10 – 24 July 2016

EXPLORING THE COMMONS AND OURSELVES

The **academic exchanges**, dialogues and social analysis typical for CURLS will be held at the campus of Chulalongkorn University in central Bangkok. The central question we will explore is WHO OWNS THE EARTH? And: is there a correlation between modes of happiness and property regimes? In the second module **field studies** to communities in the North, South, East of Thailand will be undertaken in search of peoples' perception of 'the commons' and their daily challenges with land tenure. **Exercises in theatre activism** and including individual contemplation at Wongsanit Ashram near Bangkok will be a dynamic way of digesting personal and shared experiences in the last module of this part of the summer school. With concluding **public presentations** and advocacy in Bangkok during the overlapping weekend of 23 – 24 July.

Bhutan 23 July – 7 August

PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH - EMPOWERING RIGHT LIVELIHOOD FOR SELF-RELIANCE

For the first time in 2016 **Participatory Action Research (PAR)** field studies will be undertaken in Bhutan in collaboration with the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB), with Timmi Tillmann and Maruja Salas as the major resource persons.

The field summer school - II - in Bhutan will generate ideas for the future of Agri-Culture based on 3 sources:

One, the concepts and practices from international scholars linked to the Right Livelihood Movement, Defence of Seeds and Biodiversity, Food Cultures, Indigenous wisdom and cosmovision of Agri-Culture, Agro-ecology and Food Sovereignty, Alternatives to Development, Decolonising knowledge, science and development;

Second, the diverse cultural understandings of Right Livelihood in the world (Buen vivir, Ubuntu) and especially in Bhutan (the 4 GNH pillars, 9 domains and 72 indicators);

Third, the diverse cultural insights of farming communities about their life and agriculture, as the local farming families and communities still preserve their holistic integration with nature producing healthy food in a sustainable and creative way.

As outcome we expect insights about the Bhutan policy of promoting modern Organic Agriculture, Grassroot Democracy and Self-Reliance, the importance of indigenous wisdom for the future of humankind, an enrichment of teaching curricula for the participating colleges of RUB, local Right Livelihood Initiatives, all documented in a booklet and website with practical examples from the field. Institutionally we expect a stronger link of RUB with the outside world of learning developing the partnership with the Wellbeing Studies Program and with the international participants and their institutions.

The livelihoods of farmers and farmers' communities, their dedication to agro-ecology and self-reliant networks and the challenges to interact with urban consumers and social entrepreneurs towards a new economy are core areas of interest of CURLS 2016.

Goal and overall objectives:

“A pioneering group of new generation socially-engaged academics and activists co-create partnerships and recognize the rights of the commons by living lightly on the earth, understand the interconnectedness between the inner and outer realms of life and by promoting an economy of sharing, ‘mindful markets’ and care for Mother Earth”

CURLS has the overall objectives to;

- Co-create a holistic (inter-disciplinary) approach to effectively address contemporary policy dilemmas as well as challenges to give direction to personal life and community building; articulating “happiness” and “meaning” in public policy development.
- Empower participants as individuals and as a group to become catalysts for change and to develop directions to find their vision towards a Well-Being Society.
- To strengthen movements aiming at a paradigm shift towards genuine sustainable development and an economy of sharing
- Encourage Southeast Asia as a point of convergence for change and transformation where shared ideas and new discoveries can be used as a basis for future research and project initiation in order to generate *wellbeing impact for all*.

Target groups:

The Summer School 2016 is intended for **ca. 24 participants** who are independent academics, researchers, social entrepreneurs, potential “green” leaders, students, persons on sabbatical, responsible managers and business leaders, policy development officers, activists and agents for change.

As the program intends to encourage the Mekong region in South East Asia as a focal point, fifty per cent of the participants will be from civil society organizations and partners in the Mekong countries. The other fifty percent will be represented by participants from other sectors such as students, research institutes and social enterprises, and other

regions. As the program is co-created by Chulalongkorn University, there is a quota of a minimum of **5 participants** from the university.

Geographical diversity is crucial to the program as it brings in new perspectives to the learning experience of the program and therefore applicants from all backgrounds are welcome.

Participants are encouraged to take on other roles apart from being a learner and engage in a process of co-teaching. Participants of the Summer School become a part of a “Right Livelihood movement” as they will share their knowledge and vision within the group and for future action. It is through this pioneering process of human connectivity that we join a growing community and expand teachings, discoveries and creativity to others worldwide.

Expected outcomes:

CURLS aims to pursue these following outcomes in 2016;

- The participants experience inter-cultural dialogue clarifying concepts and transforming knowledge into practice.
- The participants learn new practical knowledge that transforms ways of life towards a sustainable and balanced system, bridging the gap between humanity and nature.
- The participants find a common understanding of the diversity of the concepts of wellbeing and happiness and to develop a direction to find their vision of development.
- The participants gain practical knowledge from experiential learning in Southeast Asia, in which they cultivate new discoveries used as a basis for future research and project initiation in order to expand the knowledge in the field of right livelihood.

Overview Program of Right Livelihood Summer School *Program Part I : Thailand 10 – 24 July 2016*

Date	Venue	Content
Saturday 09 July	Chulalongkorn University	Participants arrive in Bangkok
Sunday 10 July		Welcome and introduction to purpose, context, visions on Summer School / Orientation/ Getting to know each other
Monday 11 July		Concept of development from various aspects
Tuesday 12 July		Commons and Theory: Why commons? / Rethinking property regime.
Wednesday 13 July		Exploring our Summer School Projects & formation of teams
Thursday 14– Sunday 17 July	Upcountry of Thailand	Field work / Community based learning
Monday 18 – Thursday 21 July	Wongsanit Ashram	Field testimonies / Presentation Design workshop / Theatre activism / Mind and body activities
Friday 22 - Saturday 23 July	Chulalongkorn University	Preparation for exhibition
Sunday 24 July		The exhibition of summer school participants project

Program Part II – Bhutan 24 July – 9 August 2016

Date	Activity	Venue
Saturday, 24. July 2016	Chula Right Livelihood Summer School I Results (Thailand)	Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
Sunday, 25. July 2016	Flight to Paro - Travel to Thimphu Welcome at VCO Presentation of Chula Right Livelihood Summer School I Results to RUB	Thimphu RUB
Monday, 26. July 2016	Seminar and workshops with RLAs	Punakha - Center for Natural Resources
Tuesday, 27. July 2016	Workshops with RLAs Introduction to Bhutan history	Punakha - CNR
Wednesday, 28. July 2016	Visit to Punakha Dzong and surroundings	Punakha - CNR
Thursday, 29. July 2016	Explanation to situation of Agri-Culture in Bhutan	Punakha - CNR
Friday, 30. July 2016	PAR Methods for Field work on Food Sovereignty and Climate Change	Punakha - CNR
Saturday, 31. July 2016	PAR Methods for Field work Research Plan - PAR Cycle	Punakha - CNR
Sunday, 1. August 2016	Travel to 4 field sites in Punakha & Wangdue	Field sites
Monday, 2. August 2016	Field work in 4 parallel groups	Field sites
Tuesday, 3. August 2016	Field work in 4 parallel groups	Field sites
Wednesday, 4. August 2016	Field work in 4 parallel groups	Field sites
Thursday, 5. August 2016	Travel back to Thimphu	Thimphu
Friday, 6. August 2016	Interpretation of Field work results	Thimphu RUB
Saturday, 7. August 2016	Exhibition of Field work results Final Right Livelihood Conference	Thimphu RUB
Sunday, 8. August 2016	Travel to Paro, Flight to Bangkok	
Monday, 9. August 2016	Presentation of results of Chula Right Livelihood Summer School II (Bhutan)	Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

CURLS 2016 Organizing Partner



Chulalongkorn University, officially abbreviated as CU and commonly abbreviated as Chula , is a public and autonomous research university in Pathum Wan District, Bangkok, Thailand, established 1917. It is the oldest university and first institution of higher learning under the Thai modern educational system, founded by King Vajiravudh (Rama VI), in memory of his father, King Chulalongkorn (Rama V).

Chulalongkorn University is ranked the top university in Thailand in many fields and is also guaranteed excellent university by Office of Nation Education Standards and Quality Assessment of Thailand. CU comprises nineteen faculties, a School of Agricultural, three colleges, ten institutes and two schools. Its campus occupies a vast area in downtown Bangkok.



ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF BHUTAN

The Royal University of Bhutan is a decentralized university with eight constituent colleges spread across the Kingdom. The underlying principle which influenced the development of a university system was the government's priority for equitable development.



RLC currently has eight global 'campuses' located within universities in Bonn (Germany); Lund (Sweden); Addis Ababa (Ethiopia); Port Harcourt (Nigeria); Valdivia, (Chile); Santa Cruz, California (USA); and at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai (India).



SNF was founded in 1968 by Sulak Sivaraksa. It is the legal umbrella for a number of independent civil society organization. The Right Livelihood Summer School will be administered by Suan Nguen Mee Ma social enterprise, an affiliate of SNF.



Garden of Fruition (Suan Nguen Mee Ma) social enterprise was established on 27 March 2001 to combine business activities with social engagement. The social enterprise is registered as a company with shareholders from different social organizations and business leaders who are concerned about social equality. They promote community development, care for the environment and empowerment of human inner capacities. By now a group of around 20 personnel manages a publishing house, a book and coffee shop and health restaurant; the Green Market Network with diverse branches; and the secretariat of the School for Wellbeing.



The School for Wellbeing Studies and Research is an independent think tank, learning and research centre. The aim is to understand and further explore historic and contemporary paradigm shifts and social movements in order to transform our materialistic, economically driven public policies towards societies shaped by wellbeing-centered world views, democracy and alternative development practices.

The School for Wellbeing Studies and Research provides a creative space for exploring the boundaries between (new paradigms in) science, spirituality and direct experiences of reality. It undertakes research on “the well-being society” and organized public debate on happiness, the ‘limits to growth’ and sustainable development – with experts including Nobel laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz, Vandana Shiva, Helena Norberg-Hodge, Matthieu Ricard, David Loy, Dharmachari Lokamitra and Arthur Zajonc. The School for Wellbeing started, inspired by Vandana Shiva, the Towards Organic Asia programme, together with partners in the Mekong region. A major achievement is the start of the Young Organic Farmers’ (YOF) network.

The School for Wellbeing Studies and Research intends to bring a broad diversity of ‘partner’ organizations, independent researchers, thinkers and activists together in a research- and evidence-based network for dialogues, exchanges and advocacy. Within Chulalongkorn University the “school” supports the development of a Wellbeing Studies Programme.



*The **Towards Organic Asia (TOA)** seeks for alternative and positive changes in today’s conventional agriculture practices in Asia. Towards Organic Asia upholds IFOAM’s principles of organic agriculture to serve and inspire the organic movement in the Mekong region, Bhutan and Asia, in its full diversity. The core principles upheld by IFOAM positions agriculture within an ecological, economic, social and cultural*

context: Ecology, Fairness, Care and Health. Towards Organic Asia supports a holistic, participatory accreditation approach to adoption of agroecology practices.

CURLS 2016 Partners



วongsanit Ashram
Wongsanit Ashram

Wongsanit Ashram was founded in 1984 by social activist Sulak Sivaraksa and colleagues. It is a spiritual activist community devoted to developing and promoting an alternative lifestyle that is grounded in Buddhist Dharma, cultural diversity and environmental sustainability. It is home to educators and social activists who lead programmes in grassroots leadership, in natural construction techniques, and in empowering marginalised communities. Eco-villages training is regularly held at the Ashram and include sites visits to relevant projects and communities around Thailand, allowing unique insights into the culture of this beautiful land.



The International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) began in February 1989 in Siam (Thailand) at a conference of 36 concerned ordained and lay persons from 11 countries. From the beginning, the network has been guided by leading founder Sulak Sivaraksa of Thailand. Over the years, the network has expanded to assemble Buddhists as well as non-Buddhists from more than 20 countries from Asia, Europe, America and Australia. Out of this diversity, INEB has become the leading voice in articulating Socially Engaged Buddhism in the world, while integrating the practice of Buddhism with social action for a healthy, just, and peaceful world. This commitment to global community based on the universal truths of wisdom and compassion guides all of our activities.



Spirit in Education Movement (SEM) "is an alternative college founded in 1995. It offers a spiritually based, ecologically sound, holistic alternative to mainstream education. Its philosophy is rooted in Buddhist wisdom and deep concern for ecological sustainability and social justice. The founders realise that the mainstream education in South East Asia is not in tune with the realities of the changing world. This is especially the case when related to the paradigm shift from mechanical world view to a more holistic one that is more inclusive and less Euro-centric, a way of thinking which has dominated the elites of these societies since the colonial times. So SEM has run many courses that promote the interaction between the alternative thinkers of the West and the best minded of Asia

Coordinating Team -Part I : Thailand



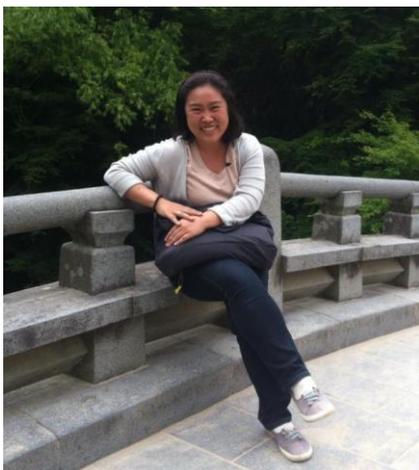
Kittikhun Bhukhongkha (Thailand)

Program Coordinator, Summer School Programme
School for Wellbeing Studies and Research, Thailand
E-mail: Kittikhb@gmail.com



Somboon Chungprampree (Thailand)

Executive Secretary, International Network of Engaged
Buddhists (INEB)
Director, Spirit in Education Movement (SEM)
E-mail : somboon@sem-edu.org



Narumon Paiboonsittikun (Thailand)

Coordinator, International Network of Engaged Buddhists
E-mail : pnarumon@gmail.com

Coordinating Team -Part II : Bhutan



Dr. Timmi Tillmann (Germany)

Advisor and Trainer, Right Livelihood College
Trainer, Indigenous Knowledge and VIPP

Email: timmitillmann@googlemail.com

Dr. Phanchung (Bhutan)

Director-General, Department of Research
Royal University of Bhutan

Email : Phanchung.ovc@rub.edu.bt