Project partners

UNESCO Bangkok

Since 1961, UNESCO Bangkok, the Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education and Cluster Office for the six “Mekong” countries, Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Singapore, and indirectly through UNESCO country Offices in Hanoi and Phnom Penh, promotes peace and human development through education, sciences, culture, communication and information.

In the spirit of One UN and as part of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Thailand, UNESCO Bangkok works in synergy with the United Nations Sister Agencies for achieving the United Nations Millennium Goals in the Asia-Pacific.

UNESCO Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE)

The UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education was established in 2003. It carries out research, education and capacity development activities in water related fields. The Institute is the largest water education facility in the world, and the only institution in the UN system authorized to confer accredited MSc degrees, and provides PhD education in collaboration with partner universities. Since its inception in 1957, IHE – as it was known – has provided postgraduate education to numerous professionals (engineers and scientists) almost entirely from developing/transition countries, representing 162 countries. More than 100 PhD candidates have graduated from the institute and the institute has executed numerous research and capacity development projects throughout the world. Many of the alumni have reached senior positions in their home countries upon return and remain key links in the global water network.

The mission of UNESCO-IHE is to contribute to the education and training of professionals and to build the capacity of sector organizations, knowledge centers and other institutions active in the fields of water, the environment and infrastructure in developing countries and countries in transition.

Fine Arts Department of Thailand (FAD)

The Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture of Thailand covers a wide scope of works on cultural heritage safeguarding, both tangible and intangible. Institutes under the Department are national museums, national art galleries, national libraries, historic parks, with local staff at field offices that oversee archaeological sites, including the cultural World Heritage properties of Ayutthaya and Sukhothai, Si Satchanalai and Kampaeng Peth.

Project partners

With the support of
Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute (HAlI)

Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute (HAlI) is a public organization under the Ministry of Science and Technology with main responsibilities in developing and applying science and technology to support better agricultural and water resource management. HAlI is equipped with a team of experienced IT professionals and scientific researchers. HAlI is committed to deliver the most viable solutions with new technology initiatives for water resource management. Strong partnership with other organizations ensures the synergistic collaboration in respective fields of work. The mission of HAlI is (1) conducting research and development of science and technology, including collecting, synthesizing, and analyzing data in respect to agricultural and water resource management; (2) disseminating the research and development outcomes to other agencies for the efficiency improvement in agricultural and water resource management; (3) promoting the research and development collaboration, nationally and internationally; (4) expanding the services and disseminating the research and development outcomes, accessibly and effectively, to the benefits of others.

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

The Asian Institute of Technology promotes technological change and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through higher education, research and outreach. Established in Bangkok in 1959, AIT has become a leading regional postgraduate institution and is actively working with public and private sector partners throughout the region and with some of the top universities in the world.

Recognized for its multinational, multi-cultural ethos, the Institute operates as a self-contained international community at its campus located 40 km (25 miles) north of Bangkok, Thailand.
Speakers on the Q & A panel

Dr. Zoran Vojinovic is Associate Professor at UNESCO-IHE with 18 years of combined research and industrial experience working in various aspects of water industry in New Zealand, Australia, Asia, Europe, Central and South America and the Caribbean. He has led the work concerning development and application of modelling tools and decision support technologies for the EU-funded research project SWITCH. Following the 2011 floods in Thailand, Dr. Vojinovic was involved in the fact-finding mission to Ayutthaya region. He is the project leader for the development of ADB’s decision support system for selecting more effective wastewater/sanitation management options. This system aims to provide support to policy makers, urban water managers, bank officers and consultants in Asian cities. He also plays a key role in the UNDP/EU project concerning flood risk reduction for eleven Caribbean islands and provision of advice to their governments. He has been serving as Associate Editor for the Journal of Hydroinformatics and Guest Editor for Urban Water Journal.

Dr. Tim Curtis has been the head of the Culture Unit in UNESCO Bangkok office since June 2009, and is responsible for the coordination and implementation of UNESCO's Culture Programme in South East Asia. He has been working on culture issues in international contexts for the last fifteen years firstly as a cultural anthropologist and then for UNESCO. From March 2000 until December 2002, he worked as a consultant for UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Section at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. In January 2003, he joined the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) Project in the UNESCO Science Sector, before moving to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in December 2004, where, as programme specialist for Culture, he oversaw UNESCO culture sector programme in Tanzania, Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles. He has worked on numerous international programmes related to culture in the fields of heritage, cultural industries, cultural policies and culture and development.

Mr. Sahawat Naenna is the director-general of the Fine Arts Department of Thailand under the Ministry of Culture. Before he became director-general of the Fine Arts Department in October 2012 he was the inspector-general of the Ministry of Culture of Thailand. Prior to that role he functioned as the director of various regional offices of the Fine Arts Department leading a number of conservation projects around the country such as the implementation of Phu Phra Bat Historical Park (Udon Thani); the restoration of Phra That Doi Suthep Phra (Chiang Mai) and Phra That Hariphunchai (Lamphun) as well as the conservation and revival of Chiang Saen Ancient City (Chiang Rai).
Dr. Sutat Weesakul is a director of research project and an affiliated faculty member of Water Resources Engineering and Management program at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). He finished his degree in hydraulic and coastal engineering at AIT. He was an adviser to former Governor of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration for drainage and flood protection. He has more than 20 years of experience in teaching and research concerning urban drainage management, coastal and hydraulic modelling and physical modelling. In practical flood management, he is an advisor for a committee of monitoring flood situation which gather all hydro-meteorological data from responsible agencies and assess the possible flood conditions related to actual dam and river-flood plain operation.

Dr. Piyamarn Sisomphon has 10 years of experience of working as a water engineer in the field of hydrology, water resources management and hydrodynamic modelling. She has a Ph.D. in Coastal Geosciences and Engineering from University of Kiel, Germany. Dr. Piyamarn has been working in both inland and coastal waters in Thailand, Singapore and The Netherlands. In March 2012 she joined the Hydro and Agro Institute of Informatics (HAII), Thailand as a hydrodynamic modeler, responsible for the study and development of flood forecasting and decision support system for the Chao Phraya River Basin, Thailand.

Mr. Alfredo Perdiguero is a Spanish national and has worked in the Asian Development Bank’s (ADB) since 1999, where he was responsible for the preparation and implementation of investment projects and programs in the areas of urban development, water supply, housing finance, health, education, and tourism. He has worked in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, China and the Philippines. He was appointed Principal Economist (Regional Cooperation) of the ADB Thailand Resident Mission in May 2011. During the last 2 years he has been responsible of following up economic developments in Myanmar and the Greater Mekong Subregion. Mr. Perdiguero’s career spans the private sector, the government and the academe. Prior to joining ADB, Mr. Perdiguero was an economist in the European Union Delegation in South Africa. Previously, he worked also as an economist in the Spanish Embassy in Egypt and in several NGOs in South America. He has been a Lecturer in the Autonoma University of Madrid and the Ateneo Graduate School of European Studies of Manila. He has also worked as a consultant on economic transition issues in Central and Eastern Europe in the mid-90s. Mr. Perdiguero earned his Master’s degree in International Economics, from the Autonoma University in Madrid and the Free University of Berlin.