

## The Politics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia

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The narrative of the Paris Agreement suggests a global community committed to keeping global warming below 2 Degrees. Southeast Asia is no exception when it comes to bombastic rhetoric on the need for action, with governments proclaiming ambitious goals for emissions reduction. But the gap between rhetoric and real change is substantial and needs explaining. Any ambitious plans for emissions reduction would need a thorough transformation of key sectors, including energy production, transportation, industrial production, agriculture and forestry. Evidence so far suggests that Southeast Asian states have not commenced this transformation but continue with business as usual albeit with some green trimmings. The national negotiating positions of Southeast Asian delegations at UNFCCC negotiations combined the idea of the “right to develop” with the “climate debt” of the North to justify their own inaction. This panel develops a political ecology analysis of why this is so. It aims to relate a comparative analysis of climate politics in Southeast Asia to key processes at the global scale. How are the national negotiating positions connected to the balance of forces in the countries themselves? How are corporations in key sectors involved in webs of political power? How do global industries (mining, agribusiness, automotive etc.) shape national climate policies and prevent radical change? What forces work towards a social-ecological transformation of society? What strategies are being developed by movements for climate justice?

The panel welcomes papers that examine climate politics for individual Southeast Asian countries, papers that focus on important sectors and their transformation, and particularly papers that develop a comparative approach or relate the political ecology of climate change in Southeast Asia to global processes.