



SYMPOSIUM

Rural Sustainability in the Asia Pacific

Date & Time: 24th January 2024 (Wednesday), 08:00-12:00 Bangkok Time

Venue: Robert B Banks Auditorium, AIT Convention Centre, Thailand or via Zoom Link: <https://ait-ac-th.zoom.us/j/94828647973?pwd=U3Z5b2NtUGJSdmhRY0NVZGcyS0FnUT09>

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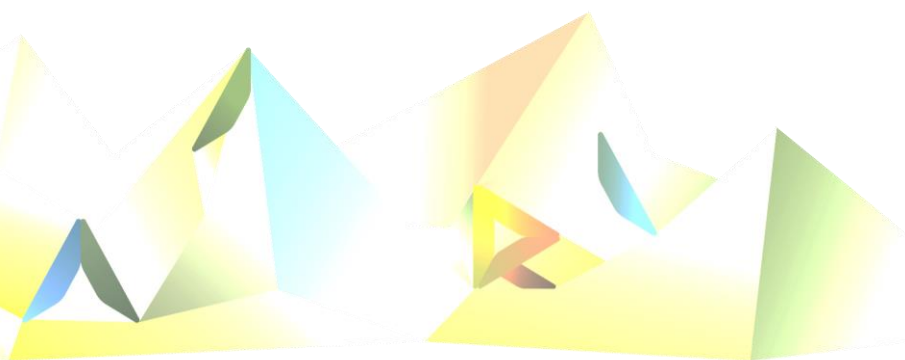
In recent decades, the Asian Pacific region has played an increasingly pivotal role in propelling global economic growth. Our region has harnessed the power of globalization, leveraged its inherent strengths, and generated employment opportunities in both manufacturing and service industries through investments in human capital and physical resources. This strategic approach has resulted in the upliftment of millions of individuals from poverty, the expansion of social safety nets, and the evolution of programs designed to protect the most vulnerable members of society.

However, 400 million people in our region—particularly in the rural areas—remain food insecure and suffer in severe poverty. Droughts, floods, water scarcity, an increase in climate-related disasters, conflicts, and the global pandemic are the main causes of poverty and food insecurity. These problems immediately affect the most vulnerable people, which include millions of impoverished rural residents, smallholder farmers, and people whose livelihoods depend on the land. The consequences of climate change, the risk of natural catastrophes, the depletion of natural resources and ecosystems, shifts in labor and demographic trends, and inadequate infrastructure are some of the barriers to food security and the elimination of rural poverty.

Furthermore, the increasing severity of inequities in the region is attributed to the persistent lack of efficient governance systems and legal frameworks that provide rural population rights and protection. People living in rural areas without access to energy, clean water and sanitation, social protection, education, healthcare, or good jobs. Complicating matters, the environment is degrading due to rapid economic growth and peri-urbanization, which disproportionately impacts the most disadvantaged. These challenges highlight the necessity of rethinking both research, policy, and practice to recover, rebuild, and strengthen the resilience of rural socio-ecological systems.

Symposium themes

1. Food systems and Agricultural sustainability
2. Rural Economic Development
3. Rural environment and natural resource conservation
4. Climate change and rural community resilience.
5. Rural heritage, socio-cultural conservation
6. Eco-Tourism and Rural Tourism
7. Rural Governance and Policy
8. Social Inclusion and Equity





TIME	PROGRAMME
08:00 – 09:00	Opening Session
08:00 – 08:30	Registration
08:30 – 08:50	Welcome and Opening Remarks Professor Kazuo Yamamoto , President of Asian Institute of Technology Professor Wai-Fung Lam , Director of the Centre for Civil Society and Governance, The University of Hong Kong
08:50 – 09:00	Group Photo Session
09:00 – 10:15	Regional Research on Rural Sustainability
09:00 – 09:15	Title: Agriculture Adaptation to Climate Change: Global Dynamics and Transformations in Food and Consumption Speaker: Prof Pier Paolo Rogero, General Secretary of Desert International, UNCCD, and Dean of the Agrarian Department of the University of Sassari, Italy
09:15 – 09:30	Title: Monitoring Gender Equality in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia: Making the Invisible Visible. Speaker: Prof Kyoko Kusakabe, Chair of Gender and Development Academic Program, Asian Institute of Technology
09:30 – 09:45	Title: Activating Co-Production in Public Service Delivery: Examining the Role of Nonprofits with A Case Study in China Speaker: Dr. Liu Chuang, Assistant Researcher, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University
09:45 – 10:00	Title: Stewardship for Rural Revitalization: Building Collaborations for Sustained Action Speaker: Dr. Jessica Marie Williams, Assistant Lecturer, Centre for Civil Society and Governance, The University of Hong Kong
10:00 – 10:15	Q & A
10:15 – 10:35	Tea Break
10:35 – 12:00	AIRI Fellow's Action Proposals on Rural Revitalization
10:35 – 10:50	Project Title: Discover Rural Living Culture: Exploration of Rural Sustainable Development in Hong Kong Speaker: Wenwei Olivia Xing
10:50 – 11:05	Project Title: Nanjian Tiaocha Speaker: Enhui Mao
11:05 – 11:20	Project Title: Seaside Village Revitalisation Information Centre: A Case Design for the Travel route in Turtle Island Village Community Speaker: ChienTu Huang
11:20 – 11:35	Project Title: Saving Roots & Routes: The Hua Takhe Community Regeneration Speaker: Siwarat Pattanasri
11:35 – 12:00	Q&A

