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## The Environments of the Poor in Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Pacific

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# The Environments of the Poor in Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Pacific

Edited by  
Aris Ananta • Armin Bauer • Myo Thant



Asian Development Bank



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E-mail: [publish@iseas.edu.sg](mailto:publish@iseas.edu.sg)

Website: <http://bookshop.iseas.edu.sg>

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# PREFACE

Southeast Asia and East Asia have been hailed as success stories of economic growth, but poverty, the environment, and climate change remain major challenges. Poverty reduction is often said to compete with efforts to save the environment and respond to climate change. It is also argued that policies on the environment and climate change should not be carried out at the expense of eradicating poverty or promoting economic growth. This book tries to show that it is possible to reduce poverty, protect the environment, and respond to climate change at the same time — if certain policies are followed. The book provides evidence from Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific as a basis for recommending triple-win development policies. To emphasize the relationships between the three “wins”, the book introduces a spatial approach to poverty, one that focuses on the environments in which the poor live, i.e., regions where the environment — often aggravated by climate change — are major determinants of poverty. These areas are flood-prone and disaster-affected lands, uplands, coastlands, dryland, and slums.

“Environments of the Poor” was the theme of a conference which the Asian Development Bank and seventeen development partners organized on 24–26 November 2010 in New Delhi.<sup>1</sup> The papers on Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific at this conference were revised and edited for this publication. The papers on South Asia make up a separate volume, being jointly published by Oxford University Press of India and the Asian Development Bank. A third volume will be published that includes papers of a more general nature, including the conceptual background. The main title shared by all three volumes is *The Environments of the Poor*.

This volume is published jointly by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), with

co-financing from the ADB Institute. Armin Bauer of ADB is editor-in-chief for the whole project, and he also designed the book cover. Assisting Armin Bauer was Paul Bullen, who developmentally edited all the papers. Aris Ananta from ISEAS is the primary editor of the present volume. Myo Thant of ADB helped with the contents and did some copy-editing. Rahilah Yusuf of ISEAS Publishing copy-edited the final manuscript and prepared it for publication.

We would like to thank various development partners who helped to make the original conference and this book a success, i.e. development institutions (ADB, AFD, DFID, GIZ, ILO, JICA, UNDP and UNEP); research networks in the Asia-Pacific region (ADB, EEPSEA, NCAER, SANDEE, TEEB, TERI); and climate change and poverty related funding facilities and other initiatives (CDIA, GM-EOC, APCF).

*The Editors*

## **Note**

1. For more information on the New Delhi conference, see the Environments of the Poor website at <<http://www.adb.org/themes/poverty/topics/environments-of-the-poor>>.

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

**Danang ADHINATA** is currently working at the KPPU (Komisi Pengawas Persaingan Usaha — Committee for Supervising Business Competition). Previously, he worked at the Indonesia's Statistical Office in South Kalimantan to conduct the population census.

**Gusti Fahmi ADLIANSYAH** is a lecturer at the LPEI College in Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan Indonesia.

**Aris ANANTA** is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore. He is an economist-demographer with a multi-disciplinary perspective. His research covers two broad regional areas: Southeast Asia and Indonesia. On Southeast Asia, he focuses on migration, ageing, and development (including poverty and environment). On Indonesia, he works on various social, economic, and political issues, including ethnicity, religion, and democracy.

**Marife BALLESTEROS** is Senior Research Fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. She holds a doctorate degree in Development Economics from the Katholieke University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Her research work concerns land and housing policy studies. Dr Ballesteros is concurrently a member of the Southeast Asia Urban Environment Management Network (SEA-UEM), where she serves as resource person for urban environment issues.

**Armin BAUER** is principal economist in ADB's Regional and Sustainable Development Department. As poverty is his focal point, he is working particularly on inclusive growth. Among others, Dr Bauer is championing ADB's environments of the poor project and the inclusive business initiative.

**BOPHARATH Sry** is a research assistant for the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) in Economic, Trade, and Regional Cooperation programme. She has been involved in the International Development Research Center (IDRC) project on the Global Financial Crisis and Vulnerability in Cambodia, a perspective from eleven villages in Cambodia. She obtained her bachelor degree in Economics from the Royal University of Law and Economics in Cambodia and Diploma of Commerce from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia.

**Stephane BOULAKIA** is a CIRAD (Centre de Cooperation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement) agronomist, specializing in conservation agriculture (DMC and agroforestry). He has been working within research and development programmes in contrasted agro-ecosystems of Madagascar, Gabon, and Vietnam. Since 2003, he has been acting as principal technical assistant of an R&D project of the Cambodian Minister for Agriculture granted by the French Development Agency (AFD).

**Paul BULLEN** has a PhD and an MA from the University of Chicago and a BA from the University of California at Berkeley, all in political science. Dr Bullen is an interdisciplinary researcher, writer, and editor based in Chicago. He can be reached at [pbullen@uchicago.edu](mailto:pbullen@uchicago.edu).

**Stephane CHABIERSKI** is a CIRAD (Centre de Cooperation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement) agronomist. He has been working for a decade on the development of conservation agriculture (CA) techniques and their adaptation to different agro-ecological and socio-economic contexts. During his stay in Madagascar from 2003 to 2007, he implemented several CA dissemination programmes, more specifically in the Lac Alaotra area. He is currently seconded to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia and analyses the CA adoption process among smallholders in the country.

**Jonna P. ESTUDILLO** (from the Philippines) is with the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo, Japan.

**Haris FADILLAH** is the Vice Dean and Lecturer of the Faculty of Economics, University of Lambung Mangkurat, South Kalimantan,

Indonesia. He is working on economic development, including poverty, particularly on issues related to South Kalimantan.

**Kensuke FUKUSHI** is Associate Professor at the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S), University of Tokyo, Japan.

**Olivier GILARD** is programme officer in the French Development Agency (AFD), and in charge of climate change related agriculture, water resources and environment programmes in Southeast Asia. Mr Gilard has a background in water resources and related risk management and works in Asia since 2001.

**Madhumita GUPTA** is social development specialist in ADB's East Asia department.

**Somchai JITSUCHON** is Research Director at the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), specializing in macroeconomic policies, macroeconomic modelling (computable general equilibrium models and econometric models), theories and empirical applications of poverty and income distribution, social protection and welfare system. Dr Jitsuchon received his PhD in Economics from the University of British Columbia, Canada. He worked as visiting researcher at the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) in Tokyo (Japan), special lecturer at the National Institute for Development and Administration (NIDA) and Thammasat University, both in Thailand.

**Anjeela JOKHAN** is Director of the University of South Pacific, Fiji.

**Yong-Seong KIM** is Research Fellow at the Korea Development Institute. His research interests are labour economics, applied econometrics and programme evaluation. He earned a PhD in economics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.

**Murari LAL** is Research Assistant at the University of South Pacific, Fiji.

**LING How Kee** is Associate Professor (Social Work and Social Policy) at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Malaysia. Currently the Director of the Centre of Excellence for Disability Studies at UNIMAS, she has a long-standing interest

in community development for marginalized groups. She has published papers and given seminars on indigenous social work practice and education, cultural competency in social work practice both in Malaysia and internationally.

**Tran Thi Viet NGA** is a lecturer at the Institute of Environmental Science and Engineering, National University of Civil Engineering, Hanoi, Vietnam.

**Arianto A. PATUNRU** was Director of the Institute for Economic and Social Research, Department of Economics, University of Indonesia (LPEM-FEUI). He has also taught at the Department of Economics, University of Indonesia. He is now Fellow at the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School of Economics and Government, College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University. Mr Patunru holds a PhD from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and has been working in the areas of globalization, trade, poverty, and environmental economics. Prior to being the Director of LPEM-FEUI, he was the research director at the institute, covering issues of investment climate, poverty, and macroeconomics. He has served as consultant to OECD, World Bank, ADB, and Government of Indonesia (Bappenas, MOF, MOT, and CMEA). Dr Patunru has published in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Asian Economic Journal*, *Choices*, and *Bulletin for Indonesian Economic Studies*. He is also a co-editor of *Economics and Finance in Indonesia*.

**Emma PORIO** is Professor of Sociology at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, of the Ateneo de Manila University. Previously, she was Chairman of the Governing Council of the Philippines Social Science Council, President of the Philippines Sociological Society, President of the Institute of Development and Policy Research, and a consultant to international organizations, such as the ADB, World Bank, and the United Nations. Her research focuses on children, gender, urban poverty, urban development, and governance. She sits on the board of the Researchers Forum for Human Settlements (Rome), Water and Sanitation Council (Rome), International Cooperative Housing Foundation (Washington, D.C.) and the Huairou Commission (New York). She also sits in the editorial board of the *Journal of Southeast*

*Asian Studies* (Singapore), *Social Movements* (London), *Inter-Cultural Studies Asia* (Sage/Taipei,China) and *Contemporary Politics* (London).

**QI Gubo** is professor for rural development at the College of Humanities and Development Studies at China Agricultural University. She obtained a PhD degree in Agricultural Economics at China Agricultural University in 1996. Her main research interests include community common resources management, rural technology and institutional innovation, and gender issues in development.

**Daniel ROBERTS** is a consultant to ADB and works at the University of London.

**Satoshi SASAKI** is a specialist on Enterprise Development and Job Creation, ILO Office for China and Mongolia.

**Myo THANT** is a Myanmar national who received his academic degrees from the Institute of Economics, Rangoon and New York University. Prior to joining the Asian Development Bank he worked at the United Nations and taught at NYU. He is widely known for his pioneering work on the economics of HIV/AIDS and regional economic cooperation. He is well known for his path-breaking work on growth triangles and economic corridors and involvement in the GMS programme from its inception.

**Kimsun TONG** is a research fellow and Program Coordinator for the Cambodia Development Resource Institute's (CDRI) Economic, Trade, and Regional Cooperation. He has been heavily involved in Poverty Dynamic Study, Chinese Investment in Cambodia, the Impact of Global Financial Crisis on Cambodian Households, Land Tenure and Paddy Productivity, the Impact of Migration (internal and external remittance) on Poverty and Agricultural Productivity, and Water Resource Management Research Capacity Development Programme. Dr Tong has a PhD in Economic Development. He was educated at Kobe University, Japan.

**Songporne TONGRUKSAWATTANA** was Research Associate and PhD student at the Institute of Development and Agricultural Economics, School of Economics and Management at the Leibniz University of Hannover in Germany. She obtained her PhD in Economics in 2011.

Her research interests focus on economics of poverty and vulnerability of rural households in Asia, shock, coping and risks mitigation strategies, agriculture and rural development, technology adoption and economics of aquaculture.

**TSUI Yenhu** is a Professor at the Institute of Social Cultural Anthropology, Xinjiang Normal University, Urumqi, Xinjiang, China. He was a visiting research scholar to the Department of Social Anthropology at Cambridge University (1991–94) when he participated in an international cooperative project initiated by Professor Caroline Humphrey, “Cultural and Environmental Conservation in Inner Asia”. Since then, he has conducted social anthropological studies (focusing on eco-anthropology and social development) in pastoral areas of northwest China and published papers and field reports from his field research.

**Sann VATHANA** is the Deputy General Secretary of the Cambodia Council for Agriculture and Rural Development.

**Marc VOELKER** was Research Associate and PhD student at the Institute of Development and Agricultural Economics, School of Economics and Management at the Leibniz University of Hannover in Germany. He obtained his PhD in Economics in 2010. He has worked in Vietnam in the context of the DFG-funded research unit FOR756 on vulnerability in Southeast Asia. Since late 2011 he has held a position with the Statistical Office of the State Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany.

**Pen VUTH** is Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery in Cambodia.

**Hermann WAIBEL** is Professor of Agricultural Economics and the Director of the Institute of Development and Agricultural Economics, School of Economics and Management at the Leibniz University of Hannover in Germany. He is currently the Director of a Research Consortium of four German universities on “Impact of Risks and Shocks on Rural Households in Emerging Market Economies in South East Asia”. His current research focus is on rural development in Asia. He has published widely on topics of natural resources management, biotechnology, agriculture and environment in developing countries. Dr Waibel obtained his PhD in Agricultural Economics and

his MSc in Agricultural Economics from the University of Hohenheim, Germany.

**Wendy WALKER** is a Senior Social Development Specialist in the East Asia Urban and Social Sectors Division of the ADB. She is responsible for social protection and social development in the portfolio for China and Mongolia. She has worked in a wide variety of sectors, focusing on the social consequences of policy reforms, environment and adaptation and social impact assessment of infrastructure and in Africa and Asia.

**WONG Swee Kiong** is Senior Lecturer at the Department of Development Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences in Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Malaysia. She is a trained natural resource and environmental economist and has carried out various research projects particularly among the indigenous communities such as the Semai tribe in West Malaysia, Iban and Bidayuh communities in Sarawak. She has also published journal articles internationally.

**Ahmad YUNANI** is Secretary of the Department of Economics and Development Studies and Lecturer at the Faculty of Economics, University of Lambung Mangkurat, South Kalimantan, Indonesia.