

REACT FINAL EVENT

International Conference

**Climate change challenges for the lower Mekong basin region:
findings, crucial problems and lessons learned from action plans
to date.**

September 19-20, 2019

Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Deadline for abstract submission April 15th, 2019

Organisers

The REACT Society for Climate Change Research and Education in Southeast Asia, supported by the project REACT – “*strengthening Climate change Research And Innovation Capacities in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam*”, co-funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ programme (grant # 573964-EPP-1-2016-1-ES-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP).

The REACT project (October 2016 – October 2019) aims to support Higher Education Institutions in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam in strengthening their capacities and regional cooperation by promoting effective Research & Innovation in Climate Change, in particular by:

1. **Building up the human capacities** of partner institutions to initiate, develop, manage, assess and exploit R&I in Climate Change, as well as to modernize relevant curricula with the integration of R&I in Climate Change towards more competence-based study programs.
2. **Strengthening institutional capacities** by setting up a solid, regional and competitive multi-disciplinary network in Climate Change research and education.

REACT partners:

- University of Alicante, Spain
- University of Freiburg, Germany
- Institut Euro-Méditerranéen en Science du Risque, France
- Università degli Studi di Genova, Italy
- Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia
- University of Heng Samrin Thbongkhmum, Cambodia
- National University of Laos, Laos
- Souphanouvong University, Laos
- National Institute for Economic Research, Laos
- University of Social Sciences and Humanities Ho Chi Minh/ Vietnam National University, Vietnam

- Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Vietnam

Call for Papers

Climate Change (CC) affects many different ecosystems, with effects on people whose livelihoods depend on them. Countries from the Lower Mekong Basin Region are among those countries in the world who are very vulnerable to CC, since a majority of their population lives in rural areas and is highly dependent on local habitats - with limited capacities to cope with CC impacts and related risks (Mekong River Commission, 2011). Extreme Weather events are expected to increase in frequency & severity, destroying infrastructure, livestock & crops. Populations in coastal lowlands & deltas are at risk from rising sea levels or typhoons that are more frequent. Populations dependent on local fisheries suffer from depleted stocks due to extreme weather conditions that harm production and destroy infrastructures. The impact of CC is particularly severe in the Lower Mekong Basin region, where agriculture, tourism and forestry sector have already been affected with serious effects on the livelihood of small farmers. Severe floods, prolonged droughts and salty water intrusions in the coastal zones are threats for clean water resources and the cultivation of crops, important for agricultural production representing at least 60 % of the national economy in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Since 2009 various national and transnational initiatives have been implemented in the region and several projects cofounded by international donors are underway to address the consequences of CC in different economic sectors and at different level of society.

This international conference wants to be seen as a transnational platform to survey research and action plans regarding the impact of CC to the Lower Mekong Basin and will focus on findings, crucial problems and an account of the hitherto impact of existing actions. It will focus on both interdisciplinary and specialized papers by scholars that deal with either local, regional or transnational problems regarding the impact of CC **in areas as diverse as economics, ecology, tourism, agriculture and forestry or water management and education or outreach initiatives**. Young scholars and PhDs are especially encouraged to submit.

The two day conference at Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, aims to bring together scholars and researchers of Higher Education and research institutions from the region in order to create a stronger network and foster intraregional collaboration in CC research and innovation. Stakeholders from industry, NGOs, government and other institutions from the region will be invited in order to take part in the discussions of the findings. The goal is to convey and unite the efforts of researchers and stakeholders in order to reflect and build up on the existing knowledge and boost the efforts in CC related research and actions in the region.

Abstracts at any level related to climate change challenges and actions in the region will be taken in consideration, such as:

- Local, regional, national and international initiatives supporting CC research and education
- The role of national policies tackling the challenges of climate change, lessons learned from national/regional/international action plans
- Political instrument and financing mechanism towards climate change actions in the region
- Climate change impact on local, regional and national economies (agriculture, forestry, tourism, fishery etc.)

- Climate change and energy nexus
- Environmental impact of CC on soil, forests, water resources and biodiversity in the region
- Social implications of climate change impacts in the region (food security, poverty, economic development, gender equality)
- Land use change and its role in the climate change mitigation
- Risk management strategies

The participation in the conference is free of charge. The Language of the international conference will be English, and all papers will have to be submitted and presented in that language. Prospective presenters are invited to submit an abstract of their papers (250-300 words) and a short CV (max. ½ page) by **April 15th 2019** through the application form available at: www.climate-react.eu/international-conference. Authors of selected abstracts will be invited to present a paper at the conference in oral or poster format and will be requested to send in an extended abstract with their registration. It is foreseen to publish a selection of the papers, details on this will be available at a later date.

Instructions for authors, including abstract template, and further information about the conference and registration process will be published on the conference page of the REACT website: www.climate-react.eu/international-conference.