

Programme: SEA at the Crossroads | Questions of Environment, Development & Culture in Chiang Mai

Programme Dates

30 May – 11 June 2019

Location

Chiang Mai province, Thailand

Description

Students on this 12-day study trip will travel to Chiang Mai province in Thailand where they will examine environmental and resources issues due to an increasing population, expanded industry and intensified agriculture. This study trip will allow students to address and aim in contributing to the technological, socioeconomic and political innovations that are emerging to reconcile these stark dilemmas. USP faculty members and students will be working with the Departments of Chemistry, Biology, the Environmental Science Research Center, and the Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD) at Chiang Mai University (CMU).

The study trip will consist of seminars and lectures on various topics on the environment (both S&T and H&SS) led by faculty members from USP and CMU, and field work relevant to questions of environment, development and culture. Approximately 50% will be seminars and 50% will be field trips and excursions. Students will also be able to partake in some fun and exciting cultural activities beyond classroom setting.

At the end of the trip, students will present what they have learned to faculty members in USP and CMU. The results of this study trip will form the basis for a future credit-bearing interdisciplinary module in Environmental Science offered collaboratively by USP and CMU. Thus, students' participation and feedback will be meaningful for us.

Seminar topics:

- 1) Air-pollution and haze: sources, measurements and remediation, and the human costs of banning agricultural burning;
- 2) Potable water quality: pollution from agriculture and industry; monitoring, remediation, and the politics of dams and resource management;
- 3) Directions in agriculture : use of pesticides, herbicides, and their effects on food safety and human health; small scale farms versus industrial agriculture and the challenges of converting to organic farming;
- 4) How innovative technological solutions can contribute to forest preservation, large-scale water management, land tenure disputes, and reconciling competing agendas of relevant stakeholders. This includes examining the complexity of environmental issues and why technological innovations are so difficult to implement.

Post-trip Deliverables

Presentation and feedback session