



# Co-creating *Eco-Peace*

## Right Livelihood: at the heart of Southeast Asia

Right Livelihood College Bangkok is one of 9 campuses globally, connecting Right Livelihood Laureates with academia. Together we co-create *Eco-Peace*. We invite scholars, students, activists, practitioners and civil society participants from Asia and all over the world to join our network-community aiming at learning, supporting, exchanging experiences and carrying forth the work of Right Livelihood Laureates. A contemporary “commons” approach to Right Livelihood – *sammā-ājīva* in the ancient Southeast Asian language Pali – resonates with likeminded worldviews: *Ubuntu* in Africa, and *Buen vivir* in Latin America. Together we explore common ground in the co-creation of *Eco-Peace*, a security concept rooted in humanity’s responsibility to care for ecology, for Mother Earth, the “community of life”, of which we all – *including future generations* – are an inter-dependent part.

## Institutional partners:



### Sathirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation

Established by Right Livelihood Laureate Sulak Sivaraksa in 1968. The Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF) provides an organisational platform for a cluster of independent organisations and groups in Thailand. Right Livelihood College Bangkok reports to SNF in its annual assembly.



### Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUSRI)

Launched in 1974, the Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUSRI) carries out research to form principles about social sciences. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the institute seeks knowledge and understanding of social transformations in relation to the economy, society, politics, education, culture, and the environment, and studies the ensuing impact of these social changes.



### INI-Innovation Network International / RLC Bangkok Project Management

Innovation Network International was established in Amsterdam, the Netherlands in 1991. It continues its social innovation *service design* as a newly registered company based in Nonthaburi, Thailand since 2017. INI provides project management and legal representation for the Right Livelihood College Bangkok.

**Front cover illustration:** *Searching for the invisible flowers* (detail). Oil on canvas, 2022, reproduced with kind permission of Juergen Kadow [www.kadow.de](http://www.kadow.de)



# Fourty Years Right Livelihood



Fourty years Right Livelihood Award was celebrated at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, February 2020.

**Right Livelihood is a courage-powered community for social change.**

Established in 1980, the Right Livelihood Foundation is committed to peace, justice and sustainability for all. The foundation is based in Stockholm, Sweden.

Each year, we present the **Right Livelihood Award**. By recognising the actions of brave visionaries and building impactful connections around the world, the Award boosts urgent and long-term social change. 186 Laureates from 73 countries have received the distinction to date.

However, our work goes beyond only presenting the Award. We provide these change-makers with long-term support. We work to raise their profile, highlight their solutions, provide protection when their lives and liberty are in danger and link them and their innovative solutions to academia.

We believe that lasting change requires concerted action based on diverse solutions. We do our part by nurturing a growing community of courageous change-makers, connecting them and their solutions worldwide. (Text: Right Livelihood <https://rightlivelihood.org/>)

## Project partners:



In collaboration with the Centre for Bhutan & GNH Studies, Bhutan

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- Exploring wellbeing and happiness as driving forces for inner and social transformation
- Study-visits to Bhutan and conference contributions
- Platform for action-research and vision exchange



Independent Agroecology and Mindful Markets Alliance

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- Alliance of organizations and initiatives for organic agriculture in the Mekong River Region and Bhutan
- Young Organic Farmers (YOF) network in the Mekong region
- Mindful Markets exchanges and social enterprise training in Asia



Chulalongkorn University Right Livelihood Summerschool (CURLS)

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- Annual Right Livelihood Lecture at Chulalongkorn University
- Summer School with Right Livelihood Laureates including action-research with communities in Thailand
- Collaboration with Wongsanit Ashram, centre for alternative learning



Earth Trusteeship Working Group

In collaboration with University of Auckland, New Zealand

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- Research on trusteeship, Earth System governance and Eco-Peace
- Academia – civil society exchanges on land, concepts of ownership and indigenous worldviews
- Eco-system restoration, climate justice and Rights of Nature

## Institutional partners:

**Sathirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation.** The SNF was founded by Right Livelihood Laureate Sulak Sivaraksa in 1968. The foundation is named after two Thai literature scholars. SNF originally supported artists and craftspeople. At present SNF serves as an umbrella for a range of independent organisations. Some of the prominent initiatives of 'Ajarn Sulak' are the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) and Wongsanit Ashram. Ajarn Sulak is the Honorary Patron of the Right Livelihood College Bangkok.



Honorable Patron

Sulak Sivaraksa, Right Livelihood Award 1995

*"... for his vision, activism and spiritual commitment in the quest for a development process that is rooted in democracy, justice and cultural integrity."* (Citation Right Livelihood Award)



The **International Network of Engaged Buddhists** was founded more than thirty years ago as a platform for progressive Buddhist monastics and lay practitioners. Over the years the network has expanded to include members, both individuals and organizations, from more than 25 countries across Asia, Europe, North America and Australia. From this diversity, an understanding of socially engaged Buddhism has emerged which integrates the practice of Buddhism with social action for a healthy, just, and peaceful world. For this

purpose it is essential to collaborate with likeminded persons and organisations rooted in diverse traditions and with secular philosophies.

<https://www.inebnetwork.org/about/>



**Wongsanit Ashram** is an alternative learning centre ('ashram') situated 40 km outside Bangkok. It was founded by Sulak Sivaraksa in 1984. It is home to educators and social activists who lead programmes in grassroots leadership, in natural construction techniques, and in empowering marginalised communities. Wongsanit Ashram is a member organization of the Global Ecovillages Network (GEN). Wongsanit hosted social activists from neighboring countries in times of crisis. <https://wongsanit-ashram.org/2019/>

<https://ecovillage.org/project/wongsanit-ashram-0/>



## Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUSRI)

The academic, institutional, partner of Right Livelihood College (RLC) Bangkok is the **Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUSRI)**. CUSRI is the gateway to Chulalongkorn University (Chula) which is the oldest and highest-ranking university in Thailand. CUSRI partners with **Chula Global Network** for international collaboration.



Assoc. Professor Narumon Arunotai Ph.D. (third from left at the table), CUSRI Director, celebrates concluding the 1<sup>st</sup> Connecting the Commons focus-group, at CUSRI conference room, December 2020.

**Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUSRI)** is one of Chulalongkorn University's and Thailand's earliest Social Sciences research institutes. Originally founded under the Faculty of Political Science in 1967, it was subsequently promoted to an independent institute on 22 April 1974. The primary objective of CUSRI is conducting research to meet the needs of Thailand's national development efforts with social science research as its basis.

The mission of CUSRI is, among others, "to actively seek knowledge and understanding of the social processes for economic, social, political, educational, cultural, and environmental changes" (...) "To collaborate with social movement partners in providing venues for discussion on development and policy alternatives." CUSRI and RLC Bangkok work together on the **Connecting the Commons (CTC)** project with the support from Heinrich Böll Foundation Southeast Asia.



Signing ceremony at CUSRI conference room, establishing Right Livelihood College (RLC) Bangkok, 20 July 2018 (in the framework of earlier MOU's 2015 and 2009): from left to right Dorji Wangchuk for partners in Bhutan, Dej Poomkacha, for Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation, Till Stellmacher, for Right Livelihood Foundation, Emeritus Professor Suthipand Chirativath, for Chulalongkorn University and Wallapa van Willenswaard, INI and School for Wellbeing Studies and Research.

Design for Social Innovation and Service Design are modern approaches to planning and implementation of social policies, public services, social entrepreneurship and civil society engagement. INI owes much of its insights to Professor. Dr. Ezio Manzini, Milan, Italy, author of *Design When Everybody Designs* and *Politics of the Everyday* – both published in Thai by INI-Books – for his guidance supporting our assistance in Food Policy Design, in the framework of Health Promotion and the Young Food Project.



## INI-Innovation Network International

The third institutional partner constituting Right Livelihood College Bangkok is Innovation Network International (INI). *INI – creative space* is responsible for the **project management** of RLC Bangkok and its formal representation in collaboration with SNF and CUSRI.

INI was earlier founded in Amsterdam, the Netherlands in the early nineties. It was re-established as a company according to Thai law, Ministry of Commerce, in Nonthaburi, May 2017. Its major objective is “design for social innovation” and enabling creative space for the incubation of social initiatives and genuine sustainable development.



Its mission is to “co-create a new collaborative paradigm towards a healthy and peaceful society, marked by global citizenship.” **This new paradigm can emerge from open interaction and “meetings of minds” between diverse stakeholders, including those active in democratic governance, responsible business and civil society engagement. Within a holistic perspective of “Eco-Peace”.**

The founders of *INI – creative space* are Wallapa and Hans van Willenswaard. We have our office in the building where the mother of Wallapa established a goldsmith business to maintain her family of 11 children, as an early widow. In this spirit we celebrate social entrepreneurship in a local context, with a cosmopolitan outlook.

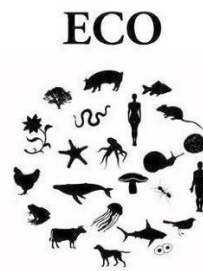
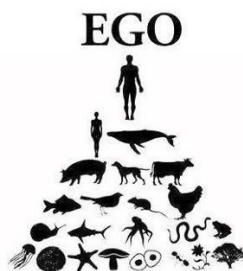
Hans was born in the Netherlands and met Sulak Sivaraksa on a lecture tour in Amsterdam. Wallapa had changed her career from owner of a trade fair company to her original interest, and the reason why she graduated at the Faculty of Arts of Chulalongkorn University. She became the pioneering Director of the Spirit in Education Movement (SEM) which was established by ‘Ajarn Sulak’ upon his recognition with the Right Livelihood Award in 1995.

Start of our INI Office renovation, 2017.

After project development on alternative education in the framework of SEM, Wallapa and Hans co-founded with Ajarn Sulak and business partners of the Social Venture Network Asia (Thailand) in 2001 a social enterprise with the Thai name *Suan Nguen Mee Ma* (referring to the garden of Ajarn Sulak’s ancestors in Klongsarn, Bangkok); in English *Garden of Fruition*. The social enterprise had a threefold business profile: publishing books and running a coffee- and bookshop in the oldest neighborhood of Bangkok; the Green Market Network; and international project development including the School for Wellbeing Studies and Research.

Following semi-retirement Wallapa and Hans decided to start *INI – creative space*. Projects address the challenges of food system transformation, in the perspective of “food as a commons” and food citizenship. INI has also taken on the project management of Right Livelihood College Bangkok and its related network of projects and partners.

Throughout the diversity of innovation issues INI is engaged with, a paradigm shift emerges: from the past perception that humanity is the ruler of nature in its own interest, via an awareness of total unity with nature, towards a new understanding of the position of humanity as an integral part of the “community of life” with the realization of a full duty of “caring for Earth”. This shift in perception expresses itself in a new “common purpose” to collaborate towards collective well-being, within a perspective of *Eco-Peace*, rooted in global citizenship.



This shift in perception expresses itself in a new “common purpose” to collaborate towards collective well-being, within a perspective of *Eco-Peace*, rooted in global citizenship.



### Connecting the Commons (CTC)

In the CTC Project, with support from Heinrich Böll Foundation Southeast Asia and managed by INI - in collaboration with RLC Bangkok, CUSRI, School for Wellbeing and TOA – young anthropologists explore the manifestation of the “commons movement” in Thailand, and, from 2022 onwards, in Southeast Asia and Asia-wide. Guided by a team of

Advisors, the researchers discovered 30 organisations throughout Thailand who identify themselves in various degrees as “commons initiatives”. “Commons” are very diverse and beyond conventional definition, but in general share three characteristics:

- Self-organisation and peer governance
- Co-ownership and *sharing*; communal livelihoods
- Trust and collaboration guide relationships, with attention for inner development

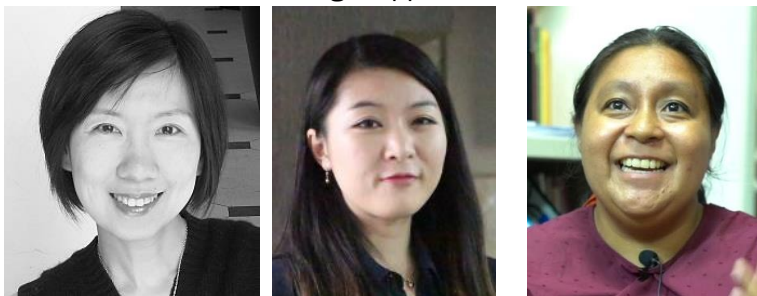
Important issue for many commons initiatives rooted in indigenous peoples’ cultures are the neglect and even suppression of community rights. In general, commons pioneer gender equity.

Identification with the commons movement worldwide is growing.

Once *commons initiatives* get opportunities to connect across diversity and countries, a systemic impact will be felt.



Young anthropologists Kittipon (Sun) Phummisuttikul and Sittipat (Ken) Tangsin who conducted research for the Connecting the Commons (CTC) project.

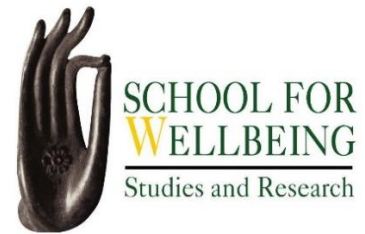


International resource persons of the online forum “FOOD AS A COMMONS” organized in collaboration with the Students Council of Chulalongkorn University, October 2021: from l. to r.: Assoc. Professor Marina Chang, researcher at Coventry University, U.K.; Shiyong Moon, Senior Manager, HANSALIM consumer – producer cooperative, South Korea; Kartini Samon, Indonesia, representative of Right Livelihood Laureate GRAIN.

Among guiding literature were books and articles of Nobel Prize winning economist Elinore Ostrom, Right Livelihood Laureate Vandana Shiva, Peter Rosset and Thai scholar Anan Ganjanapan. More in particular the research group was inspired by *Free, Fair and Alive. The Insurgent Power of the Commons* by David Bollier and Silke Helfrich (2019), as well as, in a long-term perspective, *Routledge Handbook of Food as a Commons* by Jose Luis Vivero-Pol, Ferrando Tomaso, Olivier de Schutter and Ugo Mattei (Eds.). One of the contributors to the Handbook, Dr. Marina Chang joined CURLS 2021 online exchange with colleagues from Korea and Indonesia, as well as Thai partners.



## Project partners:



In collaboration with the Centre for Bhutan & GNH Studies (CBS), Bhutan

The **School for Wellbeing Studies and Research** was founded in 2009. Establishment of the *School for Wellbeing* resulted from the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Gross National Happiness held in Thailand, November 2007.



Gross National Happiness conference organized by CBS, 2015, at Paro, Bhutan. Central: H.M. Jigme Khesar Wangchuck.

The **Centre for Bhutan Studies and Gross National Happiness Research (CBS)** started operations in the framework of the transition of Bhutan, an Himalayas squeezed in an absolute monarchy to a transition process materialized Constitution of Bhutan was Jigme Khesar Wangchuck took constitutional monarchy, in father of the young King, who favour of his son, had guided years. The leading philosophy Bhutan was *Gross National Happiness* is more Product". It was the mission of instrument to guide and principles and measurable safeguard the happiness and people. To design this "GNH democratic policy and decision-making processes, and in the first place, to enable this philosophy to root in the hearts and daily lives of Bhutanese citizens, is an ongoing challenge.



CBS designed for this purpose a GNH Index with 9 domains and 32 indicators.

Not only Gross National Happiness was included in the 2008 Constitution of Bhutan, also the notion of “trusteeship”. Article 5 says: “Every Bhutanese is a trustee of the Kingdom’s natural resources and environment for the benefit of the present and future generations (...)”.

*Wellbeing Society scenario* research in Thailand identified various orientations of happiness, respectively, “satisfaction, equanimity and the School for Wellbeing with “private, public and common wellbeing scenario can take. The connecting these modes of pointed at “trusteeship” – **for the benefit of others** – as a new

A study-visit of CCFD-Terre the School for Wellbeing Studies organization of the first in Grenoble, together with a.o. the Grenoble Alpes and the Grenoble



Dasho Karma Ura, President, CBS & GNH, Bhutan in Grenoble, France, 2018, where he was a keynote speaker at the International Forum for Well Being.

altruistic happiness”. Further on hypothesized related resonance property” as directions a societal search for a new paradigm inter-property in constructive dynamics, **exercising property responsibilities** “radical Middle Path”.

Solidaire, the French partners of and Research, resulted in the International Forum for Well Being Ville de Grenoble, University Ecole de Management.

In June-July 2022 the second International Forum for Well Being will be held, this time in the framework of **Grenoble European Green Capital 2022**.

Bhutan pioneered an academic discussion stirred up by the so-called Easterlin paradox. Growth of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) does not result in growth of happiness, after a saturation point. This saturation point occurred, according to statistics, for the USA and Europe around 1972. That was the year that the first UN conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm. The conclusion that growth of GDP does not result in more wellbeing was confirmed by the 2008 Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi commission.



Wellbeing does not follow economic growth

The School for Wellbeing and Research organized a series of conferences and publications in Thai language, including the Stiglitz Report and *National Accounts of Wellbeing* released by the New Economics Foundation (nef), U.K. The School for Wellbeing, in collaboration with CBS, organized study-visits to Bhutan, including contributions to high-level conferences organized by CBS. However, until today – and numerous studies further confirming the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi conclusions – change of the stubborn “belief” in GDP-growth as a priority goal for national economies, did not happen. By now evidence of GDP growth correlating with environmental destruction and climate change is overwhelming. But even at the “Stockholm+50” landmark in 2022, nation-states and corporations are expected to escape from this truth and indulge in surrogate solutions.

The School for Wellbeing argues that happiness should not only be seen as a result of satisfactory conditions, but as an *impulse* for change and transformation.





## Independent Agroecology Alliance



Right Livelihood Laureate Dr. Vandana Shiva

After a partnership was agreed, *CCFD-Terre Solidaire* invited the School for Wellbeing to propose a concrete project. Inspired by the 2010 Right Livelihood Lecture of Vandana Shiva, *School for Wellbeing* formulated a project on the importance of agroecology for wellbeing in multiple aspects.

Initial connections were made with partners in the Mekong region and Bhutan. A delegation of what was constituted as *Towards Organic Asia* (TOA) [at Wongsanit Ashram, Thailand] visited the 17<sup>th</sup> World Organic Congress of *IFOAM* (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in Korea, October 2011. This was the start of a series of regional exchanges, the *Young Organic Farmers'* (YOF) initiative in 2012, and, ultimately, exchanges and collaboration Asia-wide.

Themes of the exchange visits included farmers' – consumers' collaboration; organic seeds "commons"; re-connecting with the land and rural communities; Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and alternative marketing.



Executive Committee members of the Towards Organic Asia (TOA) Alliance and participants from organizations from the Mekong Region and Bhutan

TOA is now a fully independent project governed by an Executive Committee with representatives from partners in Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Bhutan. Narumon (Mon) Paiboonsittikun has been appointed as TOA Coordinator. TOA receives funding from *CCFD-Terres Solidaire*, France, and occasional donors.





Picture: Dilip Kumar Subba 'organic seeds'





Young Organic Farmers' alliance with participants from Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam on study-visit in Bhutan.

*Towards Organic Asia* (TOA) envisions to achieve community spirit, economic sustainability, and care for nature through organic agriculture and agroecology. TOA focuses on 4 working areas 1) Training and Education 2) Technology and Innovation 3) Awareness and Advocacy, and 4) Next Generation and Youth. TOA provides a collaborative platform of individuals and organizations to work together at national and regional levels to strengthen organic agriculture / agroecology in Asia. Organic agriculture/ agroecology is the heart of global transformation.

The current situation of farming causes a lot of impacts on social, ecology, and economic systems, while climate emergency is creating a difficult and unpredictable situation for agriculture. Also, the COVID-19 pandemic causes huge health and economic impacts, and affirms the importance of food security and sustainable food systems.



TOA Coordinator Narumon Paiboonsittikun

## *Mindful Markets* social enterprise training



Co-founder of the *School for Wellbeing* as well as TOA, Wallapa, pioneered outreach to partners Asia-wide. From her experiences with the *Green Market Network* in Thailand she learned that initiatives share a creative concept of **social entrepreneurship**. Connections with partners in Japan (*Seikatsu Cooperative Club*), Korea (*Hansalim*), India, Indonesia and Philippines, among others, started blooming. Important

collaboration shaped up with partners in China, in particular thanks to *Partnership for Community Development* (PCD) and the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) network in China, an active member of *URGENCE*, the global CSA network. Traditional farmers can be considered social entrepreneurs, as they give priority to their mission producing food for the community. Young social entrepreneurs intend to connect this traditional spirit with new approaches to *design for social innovation* and “service design”.

The last forum before the pandemic, was held in 2019. It was titled *Community Design for Food Citizenship*.

## CURLS (Chulalongkorn University Right Livelihood Summerschool)

Annual summer school, including Wongsanit Ashram and village experience, with inaugurating Right Livelihood Lecture and concluding presentations at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.



CURLS participants, after planting rice in the wet earth. The next CURLS year-group had their meals with the rice sown for them.

Among the diversity of Right Livelihood Laureates (see page 21) who kindly contributed to CURLS and other RLC Bangkok activities Nnimmo Bassey, Nigeria, former Chair, Friends of the Earth International and Founder of Healing Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) made a deep impression with CURLS participants.



Theatre activist Alok Ulfat, India, conducted workshops and made a series of *Mindful Movies* together with Gunjan Sethi

Artistic work is an important element of “the CURLS experience”. Nnimmo Bassey not only is an environmental activist, he is also a poet. He shared his poem *I thought it was oil but it was blood* with the CURLS group.

In addition to exchanges in the academic context of Chulalongkorn University, the oldest university of Thailand with sustainable campus in the city centre of Bangkok, CURLS participants share experiences at Wongsanit Ashram and in remote communities where they explore indigenous culture and conduct “action research”.



Most CURLS participants hail from Southeast Asia. Another “batch” of CURLS pioneers are rooted in diverse Asian countries, while there are always most welcome participants from other continents who join.

They learn from Right Livelihood Laureates as well as from local resource persons. But most they learn from direct exchanges across cultures between the CURLS participants themselves.

Like in all continents, young people before or at the beginning of starting-up a career, face existential dilemmas and feel the burden of the huge challenges awaiting them. They are not all academics, some identify themselves rather as activists or practitioners, and others just take an exploratory position without defining themselves in definite terms. CURLS offers confrontation with new points of view, different perspectives and space for reflection.

Right Livelihood Laureates are recognised with the Right Livelihood Award for their extraordinary capacities of being **change-makers** in a world often hostile to their initiatives and actions. Their campaigns not seldom incur considerable risk. The Right Livelihood Foundation states:

*“We believe that lasting change requires concerted action based on diverse solutions. We do our part by nurturing a growing community of courageous change-makers, connecting them and their solutions worldwide.”*

The Right Livelihood College was founded by early Laureate Anwar Fazal (awarded in 1982), consumer activist, Malaysia. The network of nine campuses all over the world, and additional alliances, aim to create opportunities for students and young activists to connect with Right Livelihood Laureates, and get motivated. Equally, to co-create a platform for Laureates for the dissemination of their experience, insights and inspiration.

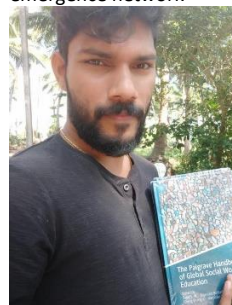
Not all universities accept easily non-classroom teaching. Neither what the Right Livelihood College characterizes, and stands for: *“academia – civil society collaboration.”* “Action-research” not seldom is met with skepticism; and academic independence – which should be the norm – perceived as extremism or “young arrogance”. Meeting each other in a spirit of solidarity, curiosity and tolerance strengthens the capacity of CURLS pioneers to make right (and realistic) choices for the future.

In an effort to formulate a synthesis of what Laureates and CURLS participants together strive for, and in a perspective of climate (in-) justice, extractive economy, outbreaks of violent oppression and outright wars, we propose “Co-creating **Eco-Peace**” as our common manifestation of purpose, in the decade ahead of us.

## CURLS Alumni



Vũ Vũ, Vietnam, the emergence network



Dr. Rajendra Baikady, India, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at University of Johannesburg; Co-Editor, The Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Work Education



Kolaka Bouanedaoheuang, Laos. Phan-Thin Social Enterprise



Marieke Vingerhoets, Netherlands, Elia - Youth initiative support



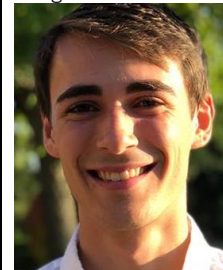
Renuka Kad, India, Social Activist; Vikas Adhyayan Kendra, Mumbai / Aurangabad



Serki Wagmo, Bhutan, Associate Lecturer. College of Natural Resources (CNR), Lobesa.



Kittipon (Sun) Phummisuttikul, Thailand; Coordinator, Right Livelihood College Bangkok



Zev Mishell, USA, Princeton, New Jersey



We organize an annual Sombath Somphone Lecture to keep alive Sombath's work. And his enforced disappearance in Vientiane, capital of Laos, on 15 December 2012.

co-chaired the *Asia-Europe Peoples' Forum* (AEPF) in Vientiane, the capital of Laos. His wife Shui-Meng Ng never saw back Sombath after he had been bundled into a car at a police station. Shui-Meng Ng

Special mention has to be made of the helpful input of annual interns from Princeton University, USA. They joined CURLS in the framework of exchanges between the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) and the Office of Religious Life at Princeton University.

Part of the programme in particular devoted to reflection and self-determination, is a retreat at Wongsanit Ashram, 40 km outside Bangkok. The ashram, a secular alternative learning center, has a long history of providing refuge to activists from the region during periods of persecution.

The tragic case of Sombath Somphone, development expert and civil society leader from neighboring country Laos confronts the CURLS participants with the enormous dedication, vision and sacrifice changemakers demonstrate. Sombath Somphone became a victim of enforced disappearance after he had



became a Human Rights activist and authored the moving book *Silencing of a Laotian Son: the life, work and enforced disappearance of Sombath Somphone*.









Since the pandemic, CURLS events have taken place only online. CURLS 2020 was titled *Making Peace with the Earth* with over 6000 views. In 2021 CURLS online

events included a *Food as a Commons* panel discussion and a preview of "Stockholm+50". These events were organized in collaboration with the Students Council of Chulalongkorn University.




Southeast Asia-welcome to participants from all continents: left and right Mya Yoon Mhi, Kaliyanamitr Foundation, and Chanlet Mon, both from Myanmar. In the middle left: Asia Matthews, USA, Princeton University and right: Laura Fúquene, Right Livelihood College Austral, Chili.

### MAKING PEACE WITH THE EARTH

With Right Livelihood Award Laureates: Ajarn Sulak Sivaraksa (Thailand) - Vandana Shiva (India) - Hans R. Herren (Switzerland/USA) - Nnimmo Bassey (Nigeria) - Mona Abouleish-Lenzen (Egypt) - Alyn Ware (New Zealand) - Neshan Gunasekera (Sri Lanka), essay fellow Judge C.G. Weeramantry (Sri Lanka), Resource Persons and Partners: Surkhai Wungsoo (Thailand) - Dasho Karma Ura (Bhutan) - André Leu (Australia) - Kessing Tshomo (Shutun) - Jennifer Chang (Korea) - Wallapa van Willenswaard (Thailand) - Sonam Tashi (Bhutan) - Bo Lwin (Myanmar) - Alak Ullat (India) - Jai JAGAT 2020 with Anesh Thillerkery - CURLS Alumni - Mindful Markets Fellows - music video



Towards Post-Covid19 Local and Global Food Commons  
CURLS 2020 Online Open Forum

ZOOM <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/5474998536>  
Date: Friday 3 July, 10:00-16:00 Bangkok time  
Info: RLC Bangkok team  
Email: [hans.creativespace@gmail.com](mailto:hans.creativespace@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://www.schoolforwellbeing.org/agenda>

CURLS 2020 online event *Making Peace with the Earth*





Right Livelihood Laureate Judge C.G. Weeramantry (1926 – 2017), Sri Lanka. Former Vice President, International Court of Justice, The Hague.

*dialogue*. It was followed by a first exploratory meeting at Utrecht University, the Netherlands, in July of the same year.

The meeting resulted in the **first International Earth Trusteeship**



The “Hague Principles” were launched on 10 December 2018 at the Peace Palace, The Hague, on the occasion of 70 Years Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Picture: Neshan Gunasekera, Sri Lanka, *World Future Council*, addresses scholars, civil society leaders, indigenous peoples’ representatives and INGO’s while referring to Judge Weeramantry



## Earth Trusteeship Working Group

In collaboration with University of Auckland, New Zealand

Right Livelihood Laureate Judge C.G. Weeramantry, Sri Lanka, acknowledged in one of his International Court of Justice opinions that “*the principle of trusteeship of earth resources is the first principle of modern environmental law*”. He recognised the principle of trusteeship in particular in the complex modes of collaboration between traditional farmers and land-owners in Sri Lanka, shaping irrigation systems in the benefit of all.

Scottish lawyer Polly Higgins promoted - at an early stage - a worldview “based on trusteeship and the wellbeing of future generations, as a *new paradigm* in which we take care of our land and recognise the inherent value of life.”

In April 2017 Klaus Bosselmann introduced the concept of “Earth trusteeship” to the UN General Assembly in a *Harmony of Nature*



Prof. Klaus Bosselmann addresses the UN General Assembly at the UN Trusteeship Council Conference Hall, New York, April 2017.

**Gathering** held together with *Earth Charter Nederland* at Elisabeth Vreedehuis, The Hague, 22-23 June 2018.

From there Prof. Klaus Bosselmann initiated and guided a collective drafting process and on **10 December 2018**, at the occasion of “70 Years Universal Declaration of Human Rights” the Hague Principles of Earth Trusteeship were adopted at the Peace Palace, the Netherlands.

One of the keynote speakers at the launching ceremony was Neshan Gunasekera, lawyer from Sri Lanka and close associate of Judge Weeramantry during his lifetime. In 2019 an **international Earth Trusteeship Forum** was hosted by Right Livelihood College Bangkok in Chulalongkorn University at the occasion of *10 Years School for Wellbeing Studies and Research*.





Adoption of the *Declaration on Education for Earth Trusteeship* at Wongsanit Ashram, 40 km from Bangkok, by “40 Years Right Livelihood” conference participants, February 2020.

## Declaration on Education for Earth Trusteeship

**Initiated by Neshan Gunasekera, Sri Lanka, *World Future Council***

“It is vitally important to alert all Earth citizens to their responsibilities as trustees for current and future generations of life on our planet home. Education for Earth Citizenship is necessary for all people of all cultures and religions, across all generations. This aspect tends to be neglected in educational curricula throughout the world.

Trusteeship implies protection and care of the commons, the environment, conservation of the rights and interests of future generations, protection of our cultural heritage, the protection of human rights and dignity worldwide.

An inter-generational, inter-disciplinary and cross-cultural approach needs to be inspired with the thought that every individual can make some contribution to this cause, through Right Livelihood: ethical living to achieve Earth Democracy.

False ideas of ownership of natural resources as opposed to the Principles of Earth Trusteeship; individual rights as opposed to community rights, social duties and trusteeship of the commons; present profit at the cost of future damage - all these tend to dominate modern society.



Visit of 14 Right Livelihood Laureates or their representatives to Wongsanit Ashram. Wongsanit Ashram was founded by Right Livelihood Laureate Sulak Sivaraksa in 1984 as an alternative learning centre and refuge for social activists.

Therefore, it is vitally important to take educational measures on Earth Trusteeship, including strengthening and spreading learning centres, widely organized through the support of Right Livelihood Laureates and others. We can correct the negative trends and make a lasting, transformative contribution worldwide to develop a shared global Right Livelihood consciousness through Principles of Earth Trusteeship leading to the preservation of our humanity and our planet.”

- Wongsanit Ashram, 23 February 2020.



Rosana Fernandes (left), representative of the Landless Workers' Movement, MST, Brazil, (RLA 1992) and her translator (middle) in conversation with Wallapa van Willenswaard, Head of Team, Right Livelihood College Bangkok.

Not only is trusteeship an important element in the constitution of Bhutan (2008), more recently – but rooted in an ongoing debate – *Our*



Justin Sobion, Trinidad and Tobago, Ph.D. Candidate at University of Auckland, New Zealand, under supervision of Prof. Klaus Bosselmann. Justin is the Coordinator of the Earth Trusteeship Working Group (ETWG).

*Common Agenda* submitted by Secretary General António Guterres recommends to “re-purpose the UN Trusteeship Council”. Towards a multilateral space for the governance of the commons and to give voice to the interests of succeeding generations. The appointment of a UN *Civil Society Envoy* would accelerate this transformation. It would be an important step, in the words of the “Stockholm+50” coalition supported by ETWG member *Common Home of Humanity*, Portugal to “ensuring adequate global ecological governance and strengthening today’s fragmented institutional frameworks, and making them inclusive, representative, and accountable to global citizens”

If we tentatively describe Earth Trusteeship as “**all global citizens are equal trustees of the Earth**”, global citizenship is an essential pre-condition towards realisation of this ‘first principle of modern environmental law’ as Judge Weeramantry positioned trusteeship of natural resources. The “**We The Peoples**” campaign of *Democrat Without Borders*, *CIVICUS* and *Democracy International*, supported by among others *Greenpeace*, *Avaaz* and *ActionAid*, brings the vision of global citizenship within reach of concrete realisation. It will be the ultimate foundation for *Eco-Peace*.



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**Mike Hayes** Ph.D. - Program Director. Global Campus Asia Pacific, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, Bangkok

**Neshan Gunasekera** – Member, World Future Council; Chairman, Earth Trusteeship Working Group (ETWG); Sri Lanka



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**Alyn Ware** – Right Livelihood Laureate 2009; Member, World Future Council; Basel Peace Office; New Zealand

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**Yang Saing Koma** Ph.D. – Founder of the Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC); Grassroots Democratic Party; Founder and Director of Ponlok Baitong Organic Farm School; Cambodia

**Gum Sha Aung** – Director, Metta Development Foundation; Myanmar

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## **Right Livelihood Laureates, RLA recipient organisations and supporters who kindly contributed to RLC Bangkok and affiliates:**

**Right Livelihood Laureates:** Anwar Fazal (RLA 1982), Malaysia; Helena Norberg-Hodge (RLA 1986), Sweden/Ladakh/Australia; Vandana Shiva (RLA 1993), India; Sulak Sivaraksa (RLA 1995), Thailand;



Students of Panyotai Steiner Waldorf school, Bangkok, supported various RLC Bangkok activities with their music in diverse styles (classic Thai, Western classic, Thai dance).

Munir Said Thalib (RLA 2000), Indonesia [*Suciwati*]; Nicanor Perlas (RLA 2003), Philippines; Walden Bello (RLA 2003), Philippines; Raul Montenegro (RLA 2004), Argentina; C.G. Weeramantry (RLA 2007), Sri Lanka [*Neshan Gunasekera*]; Alyn Ware (RLA 2009), New Zealand/Czechia; Nnimmo Bassey (RLA 2010), Nigeria; Hans Herren (RLA 2013), USA/Switzerland; Bill McKibben (RLA 2014), USA; Colin Gonsalves (RLA 2017), India.

**Laureate Organisations:** Seikatsu Club Consumers' Cooperative (RLA 1989), Japan [*Ryoko Oikawa and colleagues*]; SURVIVAL International (RLA 1989), [*Fiore Longo*]; MST Landless Workers' Movement (RLA 1991), Brazil [*Rosana Fernandez*]; Citizen's Nuclear Information Centre (RLA, 1997), Japan [*Caitlin Stronell*]; SEKEM [*Mona Abouleish*] (RLA 2003), Egypt; Grameen Shakti (RLA 2007), Bangladesh; GRAIN (RLA 2011) international, [*Kartini Samon*, Indonesia].

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## **Right Livelihood College (RLC) global network**

**RLC Bangkok** – School for Wellbeing Studies and Research; Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUSRI), Thailand; INI-Innovation Network International

**RLC Bonn** – Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany

**RLC Córdoba** – Facultad de Psicología, National University of Córdoba, Argentina

**RLC Lund** – Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS), University of Lund, Sweden

**RLC Mumbai** – Centre for Livelihoods and Social Innovation, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India

**RLC Port Harcourt** – Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

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**RLC Valdivia** – Universidad Austral de Chile

**The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies** – Geneva, Switzerland

**Right Livelihood Centre Zurich** – University of Zurich, Switzerland

**Rights of the Child Project** – Global Campus of Human Rights, Venice, Italy





**Founder Right Livelihood College / Co-Chair RLC International Advisory Council – Anwar Fazal, Penang, Malaysia (picture left)**

**Executive Director, Right Livelihood Foundation – Ole von Uexküll, Stockholm, Sweden (picture right).**



Established in 1980, we are committed to peace, justice and sustainability for all.

Each year, we present the Right Livelihood Award. By recognising the actions of brave visionaries and building impactful connections around the world, the Award boosts urgent and long-term social change. 186 Laureates from 73 countries have received the distinction to date.

<https://rightlivelihood.org/>

#### RLC Global Secretariat at RLC Bonn:

Till Stellmacher, Ph.D. – RLC Bonn Coordinator; Senior Researcher, ZEF, Centre for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany

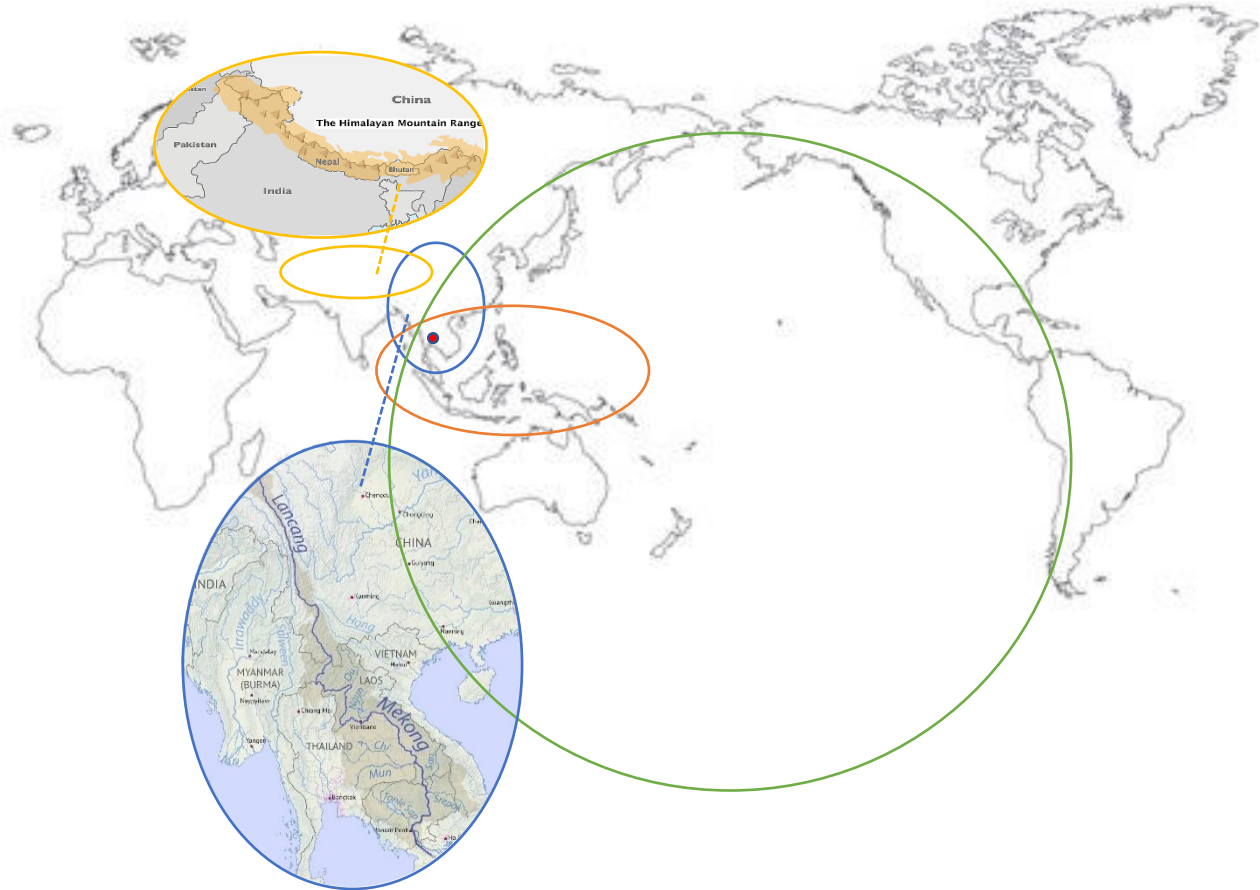
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## **Right Livelihood College Bangkok: where you can find us ...**

Bangkok, capital of Thailand, is situated in between the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas, ranging until Chiang Mai Province in Northern Thailand; and the Indonesian archipelago bordering the Pacific Ocean, in Southern Thailand. Bhutan, an independent nation positioned in between China and India, stands central in between the Eastern and the Western Himalayan Mountain Ranges. We closely work together with partners in Bhutan.

The *Mekong region* is defined by the Mekong River. This eco-system is divided into the Northern Mekong (Lancang River) region, that is China (Himalayas, Tibetan Plateau – Yunnan) and the Southern Mekong region: Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam then joined in 1984, Viet Nam in 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar, July 1997, and Cambodia in 1999.

Eastern ASEAN connects with the Pacific Ocean. While the Pacific Ocean embraces half of the globe.

Please contact us via Kittipon (Sun) Phummisuttikul – Coordinator: [sun.kittipon@gmail.com](mailto:sun.kittipon@gmail.com)

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