Publishing Policy - Aim and Scope

The Journal of Mekong Societies (JMS) is an international, bilingual peer-reviewed academic journal focusing on the Mekong region in Southeast Asia. JMS is published every four months in print and as an online open access journal. The journal is committed to publishing original and quality academic papers in humanities and social sciences disciplines covering a variety of topics in Mekong river-basin countries: economics, society, culture, history, ethnicity, language, literature, communications, information, architecture, art, environment, and development. Topics should be related to the Mekong region or its member countries, namely Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, but need not be restricted to the geographical region where spatial and political borders of the region are crossed or transcended, as in the cases of, for example, works on migration, diaspora, international relations, and linguistics. JMS provides a platform for researchers, professionals, and graduate students to contribute innovative work. Articles must be written in English or Thai.

The journal will not accept articles which have been published or are being considered for publication by another journal, nor should papers being submitted to this journal be submitted to other journals. Manuscripts submitted must conform to the Guidelines for Sending Articles to be published in the Journal of Mekong Societies as well as its citation and reference format.

Views and opinions expressed in the papers published in JMS are the sole responsibility of authors. They do not necessarily reflect opinions of the editors or the Center for Research on Plurality in the Mekong Region.
2017 marks 13 years since the publication of the first issue of the *Journal of Mekong Societies (JMS)* in 2005, as the only Thai academic journal focusing on the Mekong region. Not long after its inception, *JMS* won national recognition when in 2011 it was ranked among Thailand’s top five academic journals in the humanities and social sciences, and in 2012 among the first tier of Thailand’s quality journals, as evaluated by the Thai Journal Citation Index Center. In 2015 we transformed *JMS* into an international journal in order to make it more responsive to the academic community throughout the Mekong region. We have increased the number of articles written in English and the number of regional and international authors.

In this volume, we are pleased to present ten articles, five of which are in English. Three articles are by regional scholars who study Thai society and cultures from various academic disciplines. The first article aims to fill the knowledge gap in the commercial activities of France in Siam in the 17th century, with a comparative perspective in Dai Viet during the same period. The second article presents an innovative study of images of the Naga, an important cultural image in Thailand (and many other Mekong countries), by using nine Thai stories for textual analysis. Interestingly, the findings imply that serpent worship probably existed before Brahmanism and Theravada Buddhism came to Southeast Asia. The third article examines the formation, changes and reconstruction of the Isan Rocket Festival from the perspective of social memory. These contributions to Thai history, culture and society by scholars from Vietnam, Taiwan and China, respectively, are constructed with fresh perspectives and research methodology. The last two English articles were written by Thais, one investigating the impacts of a truck terminal project on border trade between Thailand and Cambodia, and the other looking at return woman migrants in Isan from livelihood strategies and gender perspectives.

The second part of this volume is composed of five articles in Thai. It begins with an article on Thai history, focusing on the wars between Ayothaya and Angkor Thom in the 15th-16th centuries C.E. Interestingly, the article suggests that although these wars are important in Thai and Khmer
battle histories, their outcomes did not result in the collapse of the old central power of the Cambodian kingdom, as previously understood. The second article is concerned with an entirely different type of human interaction – literature. Using the comparative literature approach, the author shows the influence of Mainland Chinese literature on overseas Chinese literatures in ASEAN countries. The latter, like those who create and consume them, now try to seek their own identities by fusing with the host societies. In the next article, the author identifies transnational relations among Lao factory workers in Thailand with their home communities in rural Laos through sociological perspectives. These relations are constructed in various forms, by different actors and with different purposes. The fourth article focuses on the interrelated symbolism and local dynamics of textile patterns among Lao Phuan living in three disparate locations in Laos and Thailand. These patterns originated in and were inherited from weavers in Chiang Kwang, Laos. The last article, on the impact of international trade on sugar cane industry in ASEAN, shows that the AEC’s increased export volume has had little impact on Thailand’s exports. We are also pleased to have a review of a new book, *Refugee and Return: Displacement along the Thai Myanmar Border*, a collection of essays by various writers.

We would like to invite regional and international scholars to publish their original papers and book reviews in the *Journal of Mekong Societies*. We welcome papers in English or Thai in humanities and social sciences disciplines dealing with issues related to the Mekong region. All manuscripts which pass the editorial review are sent for double-blind review by two anonymous independent referees. All articles and book reviews in JMS can be seen globally and are downloadable free of charge from our websites, www.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/mekongjournal and https://mekongjournal.kku.ac.th. We recommend that potential authors consult the journal’s publishing policy and author guidelines in the present volume or on our websites before submitting a paper to JMS.

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