

2025

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Inter-University Exchange Project;
Support for the Formation of Collaborative Programs with Universities in Asia (Tentative)
CAMPUS Asia : Collective Action for Mobility Program of University Students in Asia
Multidisciplinary Education Program for Careers on Risk Management Experts

CAMPUS Asia Plus Symposium in Laos

Designing the Next Generation of Risk Management in Asia
– Cooperation, Knowledge, Innovation –

Aug.21 (Thu), 2025

Time : 10:00-16:30

**Venue: Faculty of Economics & Business Management,
National University of Laos**

Main symposium: Lecture Hall, FEB, NUOL

Breakout session: Audio Visual Room, FEB, NUOL



Program:

- 9:30 -10:00 Registration
- 10:00 -10:30 Opening Session
- 10:45 -11:15 Special Keynote Session
: ASEAN Collaboration
- 11:30 -12:45 Student Session 1, 2
- 14:00 -15:50 Student Session 3, 4
- 16:00 -16:30 Closing Session

Co-hosts



CAMPUS Asia Office, Kobe University

Faculty of Economics & Business Management, National University of Laos

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OVERVIEW

2025 CAMPUS Asia Plus Annual Symposium in Laos

Designing the Next Generation of Risk Management in Asia –Cooperation, Knowledge, Innovation–

Date: 10:00-16:30pm, August 21 (Thu), 2025

Venue: National University of Laos at Vientiane, Lao PDR

Format: Hybrid symposium (via Zoom)

Working Language: English

Co-hosts: Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies (GSICS), Kobe University, and Faculty of Economics and Business Management (FEB), National University of Laos (NUOL)

Overview

As the final year of the five-year **CAMPUS Asia Plus Program**, this symposium serves as a platform to exchange knowledge, deepen regional partnerships, and envision future directions in risk management education.

The event will feature:

- **Cooperation:** Discussions on enhancing collaboration with ASEAN partners to strengthen regional capacity in risk management.
- **Knowledge:** Student presentations showcasing academic research and learning across borders.
- **Innovation:** Reflections on the achievements of the CAMPUS Asia Plus Program, and visions for institutional collaboration in the next phase.

With participation from the **National University of Laos, Korea University, Fudan University, Chulalongkorn University**, and **Kobe University**, the symposium will bridge past experiences and future directions in cross-disciplinary education on risk management.

SCHEDULE

2025 CAMPUS Asia Plus Annual Symposium

Designing the Next Generation of Risk Management in Asia
–Cooperation, Knowledge, Innovation–

10:00-16:30, August 21 (Thu), 2025 Main symposium room: Lecture Hall, FEB, NUOL Breakout session room: Meeting Room, FEB, NUOL	
Time	Program
9:30–10:00	Registration
10:00–10:30	Opening Session (opening remarks - 4 mins each) MC: Prof. Tatsuya Maisawa, Assistant Professor, GSICS, Kobe University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prof. Dr. Phouphet Kyophilavong, Vice President, National University of Laos (NUOL) ■ Dr. Changhe Su, Dean and Professor, School of International Relations and Public Affairs (SIRPA), Fudan University ■ Dr. Jung-Sun Han, Dean and Professor, Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), Korea University ■ Dr. Ratsiri Thato, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Nursing (FoN), Chulalongkorn University (CU) ■ Dr. Yuichiro Uchida, Dean and Professor, Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies (GSICS), Kobe University
10:30–10:45	Gift Exchange and Group Photo
10:45–11:15	Special Keynote Session: ASEAN collaboration Keynote Speaker (20 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dr. Toshihisa Toyoda, Professor Emeritus, GSICS, Kobe University <i>Risk Management in East Asia for Envisioning the Future Direction of the Campus Asia Plus Program</i> Discussant (10 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prof. Dr. Phouphet Kyophilavong, Vice President, NUOL Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dr. Keiichi Ogawa, Professor, GSICS, Kobe University
11:15–11:30	Coffee Break/ Room Transition

<p>11:30–12:45</p> <p>Student Sessions 1 and 2 will be held concurrently as breakout sessions. Please join the session of your interest.</p>	<p>Student Session 1: Health, Care, and Everyday Life <u>Venue: Lecture Hall</u></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dr. Masanori Kameoka, Professor, GSHS, Kobe University <p>Presenters (15 mins each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sitthikone Xayavong, M2, FEB, NUOL <i>Customer Behavior and Factors Influencing the customer's Decision-Making in Using the service of Mountain View Café and Restaurant</i> ■ Sakura Matsuki, M2, GSHS, Kobe University <i>Medically Dependent Infant in Thailand</i> ■ Pinyo Jaroensuk, Registered Nurse and Lecturer, FoN, CU <i>Factors Related to Sternal Wound Infection among Persons after Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery : A Case-Control Study</i> <p>Discussants (30 mins):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dr. Xing Chen, Assistant Professor, SIRPA, Fudan University (for Sitthikone Xayavong) ■ Dr. Ratsiri Thato, Dean and Professor, FoN, CU (for Sakura Matsuki) ■ Dr. Chaowarit Ngernthaisong, Lecturer, FoN, CU (for Sakura Matsuki) ■ Dr. Chieko Greiner, Professor, GSHS, Kobe University (for Pinyo Jaroensuk) <p>Student Session 2: Evidence-based Approaches to Development and Well-being <u>Venue: Meeting Room</u></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dr. Toulany Thavisay, Lecturer and Researcher, FEB, NUOL <p>Presenters (15 mins each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Yuki Hachiya, M1, GSICS, Kobe University <i>The Relationship between ICT and Learning Proficiency in Grade 5 Children in Lao PDR</i> ■ Zhisen Chen, M2, SIRPA, Fudan University <i>Driving the Future: East Asian Competition in the New Energy Vehicle Sector and Its Expansion into Southeast Asia</i> ■ Sihyeon Park, M2, GSIS, Korea University
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	<p><i>Early Childhood Education in Lao PDR: Bridging Gaps in Educational Attainment</i></p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dr. Kyuwon Kang, Associate Professor, GSIS, Korea University (for Yuki Hachiya) ■ Dr. Masato Nakahara, Project Associate Professor, GSICS, Kobe University (for Zhisen Chen) ■ Dr. Ayumu Yagi, Project Assistant Professor, GSICS, Kobe University (for Sihyeon Park)
12:45–14:00	Lunch Break
14:00–14:20	<p>Honorary Professor Conferment Ceremony</p> <p><u>Venue: Lecture Hall</u></p> <p>Conferral of the title of Honorary Professor on Professor Emeritus Toshihisa Toyoda of GSICS, Kobe University, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to academic cooperation with NUOL.</p>
14:20–14:30	Room Transition
<p>14:30–16:10</p> <p>(including break)</p> <p>Student Sessions 1 and 2 will be held concurrently as breakout sessions. Please join the session of your interest.</p>	<p>Student Session 3: Empirical Approaches to Development and Trade</p> <p><u>Venue: Lecture Hall</u></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dr. Yin Li, Associate Professor, SIRPA, Fudan University <p>Presenters (15 mins each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Choummala Vanmanivong, M2, FEB, NUOL <i>Determinants of Household Food Consumption: Evidence from Households under the Strengthening Livelihood System Project</i> ■ Sirapat Chongwattanaboon, M2, SIRPA, Fudan University <i>Chinese FDI and Thailand's ESG-Promoted Sectors: The Alignment and Policy Responsiveness, 2015–2024</i> ■ Jo Cheon An, M2, GSIS, Korea University <i>Digital Trade in Laos and Risk Management</i> ■ Takumi Koike, D1, GSICS, Kobe University <i>Double-Shift Schooling in Cambodian Primary Education: Spatial Determinants and Educational Impacts</i> <p>Discussants (40 mins)</p>

- **Dr. Bingdao Zheng**, Associate Professor, SIRPA, Fudan University (for Choummala Vanmanivong)
- **Dr. Bounthone Soukhavong**, Vice Dean and Associate Professor, FEB, NUOL (for Sirapat Chongwattanaboon)
- **Dr. Bounlert Vanhnalatt**, Associate Professor, FEB, NUOL (for Jo Cheon An)
- **Dr. Najung Kim**, Research Professor, GSIS, Korea University (for Takumi Koike)

Student Session 4: Policy Innovation Across Disciplines

Venue: Meeting Room

Moderator:

- **Dr. Seungho Lee**, Professor, GSIS, Korea University

Presenters (15 mins each)

- **Taewook Jeon**, M1, GSIS, Korea University
Laos and the Framework of Multilateral Cooperation: Case Study on Mekong River
- **Maksymilian Szabatin**, M2, SIRPA, Fudan University
Evaluation of Poland's Innovation Policies (2017–2023): Assessing the Strategy for Responsible Development through Mission-oriented Innovation Policy
- **Phoyphailin Inthavong**, M2, FEB, NUOL
The Attitudes of Accounting Staff in Small and Medium Enterprises Toward the Implementation of the Lao Financial Reporting Standards (LFRS): A Case Study in Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital
- **Nadia de Abreu Bengo**, D2, GSICS, Kobe University
Formative Program Evaluation in In-Service Primary School Teacher Training: Technology for Data Collection and Analysis

Discussants (40 mins)

- **Prof. Mika Hayashi**, Professor, GSICS, Kobe University (for Taewook Jeon)
- **Dr. Yuichiro Uchida**, Professor, GSICS, Kobe University (for Maksymilian Szabatin)
- **Dr. Ping Zhang**, Associate Dean and Professor, SIRPA, Fudan University (for Phoyphailin Inthavong)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dr. Viriyasack Sisouphanthong, Associate Professor, FEB, NUOL (for Nadia de Abreu Bengo)
16:10–16:15	Break/Room Transition
16:15–16:30	<p>Closing Session <u>Venue: Lecture Hall</u></p> <p>Reflecting on the symposium and envisioning for the next phase of collaboration (3 mins each) MC: Prof. Tatsuya Maisawa, Assistant Professor, GSICS, Kobe University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prof. Vadsana Chanthanasinh, Acting Dean and Associate Professor, FEB, NUOL ■ Dr. Chaowarit Ngernthaisong, Lecturer, FoN, CU ■ Dr. Seungho Lee, Professor, GSIS, Korea University ■ Dr. Ping Zhang, Associate Dean and Professor, SIRPA, Fudan University ■ Dr. Xayphone Kongmanila, Vice Dean and Associate Professor, FEB, NUOL ■ Prof. Mika Hayashi, Professor, GSICS, Kobe University
16:30–	Networking reception with light refreshments

SPECIAL KEYNOTE SESSION

Keynote Speaker

Biography

Dr. Toshihisa Toyoda



Dr. Toshihisa Toyoda is Professor Emeritus at Kobe University and Hiroshima Shudo University. He has previously been a visiting professor at the University of Essex and Beijing Normal University. His research spans development economics, disaster economics, and international cooperation studies. His recent edited books include *Economic and Policy Lessons from Japan to Developing Countries* (2012), *Asian Law in Disasters: Toward a Human-centered Recovery* (2016), and *Build Back Better: Challenges of Asian Disaster Recovery* (2021).

Professor Emeritus Toshihisa Toyoda's Contribution to Faculty of Economics and Business Management, National University of Laos

In 1997, Japan's Ministry of Education commissioned Professor Toshihisa Toyoda of GSICS, Kobe University, to conduct a field survey in Laos and provide expert guidance for the establishment of the Faculty of Economics and Management (FEM) at the National University of Laos (NUOL), now the Faculty of Economics and Business Management (FEB). At JICA's request, he drafted the project plan and built partnerships with universities in Japan and neighboring countries.

JICA launched the FEM Support Project in September 2000, Japan's first case of supporting the establishment of a social sciences faculty. From August 2001 to November 2002, Professor Toyoda served as a long-term JICA expert, working to improve faculty management and academic quality. In 2004, his cooperation expanded from an individual to an institutional level, with GSICS taking on part of the project.

Thanks to his long-standing efforts, Japan–Laos academic cooperation has continued to this day. In recognition, NUOL awarded him the title of Honorary Professor in 2025, and student exchange remains active through the CAMPUS Asia Plus Program.

Discussant

Biography

Prof. Dr. Phouphet Kyophilavong



Dr Phouphet Kyophilavong is Vice president of the National University of Laos. He received his PhD in economics from Kobe University in 2003 and has been carrying out research on issues including SMEs, macroeconomic management, economic integration, energy, natural resources and poverty, contributing to such publications as the International Review of Economics & Finance, Research in International Business and Finance, Economic Modelling and others. He has directed numerous research projects and works closely with government agencies in Laos and international organizations such as ERIA, OECD, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency and Mekong River Commission (MRC). He has been a visiting scholar at Pukyong National University, Nagoya University, University of Laval, Kobe University, and Nanyang Technological University, as well as Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Visiting Scholar at Harvard University.

Special Keynote Session Abstract

Dr. Toshihisa Toyoda (Professor Emeritus, GSICS, Kobe University)

Risk Management in East Asia for Envisioning the Future Direction of the Campus Asia Plus Program

The **2025 Campus Asia Plus Program** aims to assess past achievements and seek new directions, with a focus on risk management in today's global environment, where decision-making under risk is paramount. Risk is the potential harm arising from the interplay of hazards, exposures, and vulnerable conditions. This program addresses a spectrum of risks, including political and economic shocks, as well as disasters—both natural (such as earthquakes and pandemics) and non-natural (human-induced).

By demonstrating that East Asia is the region most affected by natural disasters globally, as evidenced by some related data, I highlight two critical and emerging research topics in disaster management for this region: **climate-related disasters** and **compound disasters**. These **represent** the complex challenges posed by environmental change, which is increasing in frequency and severity. I also emphasize the importance of distinguishing between disaster management approaches in the **pre-event (ex ante)** and **post-event (ex post)** phases, aligning with the global trend led by the United Nations that prioritizes pre-event preparedness. Post-event management remains vital for the recovery of livelihoods, economies, and environments, often guided by the principle of **Build Back Better (BBB)** to ensure resilient reconstruction.

Briefly reflecting the historical development of regional cooperation for disaster risk management among the CJK (China, Japan, and Korea) and ASEAN countries, I emphasize the importance of further advancing cooperation across the CJK and ASEAN, as well as among the CJK countries.

Finally, I suggest the publication of a new book (textbook) under the program's objectives to explore risk management in East Asia. This work will emphasize recent disaster trends, particularly climate-related and compound disasters, while delving into country-specific contexts and historical shifts in disaster management across CJK and ASEAN nations, thereby fostering regional resilience through a deeper understanding and enhanced cooperation.

ABSTRACTS OF STUDENTS PRESENTATIONS

Student Session 1

Sitthikone Xayavong (M2, FEB, National University of Laos)

Customer Behavior and Factors Influencing the customer's Decision-Making in Using the service of Mountain View Café and Restaurant

This thesis examines *Customer Behavior and Factors Influencing the customer's Decision-Making in Using the service of Mountain View Café and Restaurant*. The study had three main objectives: (1) to study the customer behavior in choosing to use the service, (2). to evaluate the importance of factors that lead customers to use the service, and (3). to compare the significance of factors that lead customers to choose to use the service by based on gender, age, education level, occupation, and average monthly income.

A total of 385 customers were surveyed using a quantitative approach. Statistical tools used included frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test, F-test, and LSD analysis.

Key findings include: the primary reason for using the service is the taste of the food; the main purpose is to meet friends; most customers order 3-4 food items per visit; service; coffee is the most frequently ordered beverage; decisions are typically made independently; convenience is the predominant reason for choosing specific days; the average stay is 1-2 hours; peak hours are between 9:00-12:00; most customers visit 1-2 times per month and spend less than 500,000 Kip per visit.

Regarding the importance of various factors, physical characteristics received the highest ranking, followed by distribution channels, products, service processes, and human factors-all related as high important. Comparison based on demographic variables revealed statistically significant differences (at the 0.05 level) in the perceived importance of these factors across gender, age, education, occupation, and income.

Sakura Matsuki (M2, GSHS, Kobe University)

Medically Dependent Infant in Thailand

Medically dependent children, who require ongoing medical support such as mechanical ventilation or tube feeding often face significant challenges in transitioning from hospital to home care, particularly in countries where social and healthcare systems are still developing. This study aims to investigate the lived experiences of families with medically dependent infants in Thailand, and to identify existing gaps in care, support mechanisms, and systemic challenges.

The study adopts a mixed-methods exploratory cross-sectional design. Quantitative data will be collected from all children admitted to the Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health during the neonatal period in 2024, focusing on those who required specialized medical care post-discharge. Qualitative data will be obtained through in-depth interviews with approximately 20 families, targeting conditions frequently associated with medical complexity. Data analysis will involve regression techniques for quantitative data and thematic coding for qualitative transcripts.

Preliminary background research shows that while Thailand has made significant progress in maternal and neonatal health indicators, including a decline in neonatal mortality and improvement in life expectancy, there is a lack of national data on home care practices for medically dependent children. Additionally, the country's aging population, declining fertility rate, and urbanization trends have increased the prevalence of preterm births and medically complex infants, heightening the urgency of tailored interventions.

A notable strength of Thailand's healthcare system is its Village Health Volunteer (VHV) program, which provides primary care and disease surveillance. However, this model is not adequately adapted for the long-term and specialized needs of medically dependent children.

This research is expected to provide foundational evidence to inform the development of comprehensive pediatric home care policies in Thailand. It also aims to promote multisectoral collaboration among healthcare providers, community resources, and policymakers. Challenges encountered in the field, such as long ethical review processes and restricted access to medical records or NICU data, have led to considerations of alternative recruitment sites and potential expansion to neighboring countries like Cambodia.

By highlighting the complex and often underrepresented experiences of these families, the study seeks to contribute to both academic knowledge and practical policy development in pediatric health care in Southeast Asia.

Pinyo Jaroensuk (D2, FoN, Chulalongkorn University)

Factors related to sternal wound infection among persons after coronary artery bypass graft surgery : a case-control study

Background: Coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) is a surgical procedure used to treat patients with coronary artery disease (CAD). One of the major postoperative complications is sternal wound infection (SWI), a significant concern that adversely affects patients both physically and psychologically.

Objective: To determine the factors related to sternal wound infection among persons after CABG surgery based on, ages, gender, obesity, malnutrition, anemia, comorbidities, attitude toward surgical wound care, Thai estimated glomerular filtration rate, Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction, level of hemoglobin A1c, and types of surgery.

Methods: This is a retrospective case-control study. The subjects were person after CABG surgery, over 35 years old, both male and female, and undergoing surgery from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. The participants were 81 people into 2 groups. The case group consisted of 27 people with SWI and the control group consisted of 54 people with non SWI in super tertiary care hospital were recruited using a multistage sampling technique.

Result: The result showed that the risk factors related SWI found to be significant were: Impaired Thai estimated glomerular filtration rate (Thai eGFR) < 60 ml/min (aOR 3.29 [95 % CI 1.22-8.89], $p = 0.02$) and levels of hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) ≥ 6.5 % (aOR 2.96 [95 % CI 1.08-8.12], $p = 0.04$)

Conclusion: Patients undergoing CABG who have impaired Thai eGFR < 60 ml/min and levels of HbA1c $\geq 6.5\%$ are increased risk of sternal wound infection. Therefore, close monitoring and comprehensive postoperative care.

Student Session 2

Yuki Hachiya (M1, GSICS, Kobe University)

The Relationship between ICT and Learning Proficiency in Grade 5 Children in Lao PDR

Major advances in technology, especially digital technology, are rapidly transforming the world. Over the past two decades, information and communication technology (ICT) has been widely adopted in education worldwide, including in low-income countries. In Lao PDR, as an implementation of integrating ICT in education, the Ministry of Education and Sports, with support from EU and UNICEF, launched *Khang Panya Lao*, a national digital platform from 2021. Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) 2019 revealed the alarming results for Lao PDR; 49.6% of Grade 5 children performed the lowest reading proficiency level, 51.9% could write only a few sentences with very limited content, and 32.8% could only count a small collection of objects or recognize numbers.

According to previous studies, while empirical studies in Cambodia demonstrated that ICT use positively and significantly improved math achievement among Grade 3 children, merely providing ICT in schools or no restrictions on its use showed that the test score significantly declined in the 44 countries that participated in PISA 2015. That's why, the relationship between ICT-related factors and children's academic achievement may not be a linear relationship in each developing and developed country. And it reported that although the transition rate to lower secondary school was 89.6%, the lower secondary completion rate dropped to 56.2% in 2023. Besides, the children who do not meet a minimum proficiency in reading by Grade 5 will likely struggle to transition to secondary education. Therefore, this study aims to examine how ICT-related factors at both the individual and school levels affect Grade 5 children's learning proficiency in Lao PDR. As a significance of this study, it contributes to improving learning proficiency and transition rate to lower secondary school.

The hypothesis is that all ICT-related factors don't have a positive relationship with learning proficiency. To explore the factors that affect learning proficiency in Grade 5 children, this study would use Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM) to find the relationship between ICT-related factors and learning proficiency. As an expected outcome, better ICT facilities in schools significantly improve learning proficiency. However, household conditions need to be considered.

In terms of risk management, the relationship between ICT-related factors and learning proficiency can contribute to ICT strategies in education, especially for children from disadvantaged households. In other words, this study can help to reduce the risk of increasing educational disparities and contributing to more equitable educational opportunities in Lao PDR.

Zhisen Chen (M2, SIRPA, Fudan University)

Driving the Future: East Asian Competition in the New Energy Vehicle Sector and Its Expansion into Southeast Asia

The new energy vehicle (NEV) industry has witnessed exponential growth over the past few decades, emerging as a vital force in the global transition toward sustainable development. In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to climate action and affordable clean energy, the NEV industry plays a crucial role in reducing carbon emissions and enhancing energy efficiency. China, Japan, and South Korea have been at the forefront of this transformation, each assuming distinctive roles in the global NEV landscape. Their varying industrial policies, technological strengths, and market orientations contribute to a dynamic competitive environment that is reshaping the future of mobility.

The strategic importance of the NEV industry goes beyond environmental considerations. With its vast upstream and downstream supply chains, the automotive sector contributes significantly to employment, technological innovation, and economic resilience. Recognizing its long-term potential, many countries have incorporated NEV development into their national strategies, viewing it as a key arena for securing future competitiveness and industrial sovereignty. As a result, competition in the NEV sector can be seen as a proxy for broader geopolitical and economic rivalries, with implications for global trade patterns and international influence.

Export performance serves as a concrete indicator of an enterprise's international competitiveness, while also generating new drivers for domestic economic growth. In this context, the experiences of China, Japan, and South Korea—three countries with well-established automotive industries and shared cultural and regional proximity—offer valuable comparative insights into the evolution of the NEV industry in East Asia.

This research aims to examine the development and competitive dynamics of the NEV industries in China, Japan, and South Korea, with a specific focus on their expansion into Southeast Asian markets, particularly Vietnam. Vietnam's rapidly growing economy, favorable policy environment, and increasing demand for clean transportation make it a critical case for observing NEV industry competition. By employing a case study methodology, this research analyzes the strategies, opportunities, and challenges encountered by these three countries in the Vietnamese market. Ultimately, the study seeks to provide a deeper understanding of how East Asian NEV manufacturers are positioning themselves in regional markets and what their trajectories may suggest for the future of global competition in green technologies.

Sihyeon Park (M2, GSIS, Korea University)**Early Childhood Education in Lao PDR: Bridging Gaps in Educational Attainment**

Education is essential for improving income levels, public health, social equity, and reducing crime rates. However, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) has one of the lowest early childhood education (ECE) enrollment rates in the region, particularly in rural and marginalized areas. This is concerning, as enrollment in ECE is closely linked to longer and more successful educational trajectories.

Several factors contribute to low ECE participation in Lao PDR: limited public investment due to low GDP, insufficient government prioritization of ECE in national education planning, poor infrastructure in remote areas, lack of qualified preschool teachers, and financial barriers faced by low-income families. Furthermore, ECE is not recognized as a formal or compulsory part of the education system, which weakens institutional support and hinders broader efforts in early childhood development (ECD). In this context, around 30% of children in Lao PDR do not have access to pre-primary education. This gap can hinder school readiness, leading to higher rates of grade repetition and dropout. In contrast, children who participate in high-quality ECE programs are better prepared for school, enroll on time, and tend to make greater academic progress throughout their education. Educational outcomes also vary significantly based on factors like gender, location, and ethnic background. This highlights the need for an in-depth look at how these demographics interact with systemic issues. This study aims to investigate how early childhood education, along with these demographic variables, impacts the long-term educational paths of children in the Lao PDR.

Using data from the sixth Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey (LECS6), which includes about 20,560 participants, multivariate regression models are employed to determine whether attending pre-primary education significantly influences the chances of completing secondary and tertiary education. This analysis examines various demographic factors, including gender, urban or rural status, household income, and ethnic identity, to gain a deeper understanding of the structural inequalities within the education system. Additionally, this study adopts a risk management perspective to examine how poverty, geographic isolation, and weak institutional support intersect with demographic vulnerabilities. In this context, UNICEF's Community-Based School Readiness (CBSR) program provides a promising model by offering locally-run preschool classes in remote areas. The program helps address barriers such as teacher shortages and poor infrastructure, demonstrating how community-driven strategies can enhance school readiness and resilience. By incorporating this framework, the study aims to identify underlying factors of vulnerability and resilience in Lao PDR's education system. The findings seek to inform policy discussions on equitable, context-sensitive interventions—such as expanding community-based models—to close ECE access gaps and strengthen human capital development.

Student Session 3

Choummala Vanmanivong (M2, FEB, National University of Laos)

Determinants of Household Food Consumption: Evidence from Households under the Strengthening Livelihood System Project

This study examines the determinants of household food consumption, using evidence from households participating in the Strengthening Livelihood System Project in rural northern Laos. Adopting a descriptive and quantitative research approach, data were collected from 203 households. The analysis consisted of two components: (1) calculating the Household Food Consumption Score (FCS), and (2) identifying key determinants using an Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression model, with FCS as the dependent variable.

The results indicate that 83.25% of households had an FCS above 35, reflecting adequate food access. However, 11.33% were food insecure ($FCS < 21$), and 5.42% fell into the borderline category ($FCS 21.5\text{--}35$). The regression analysis shows that household size, number of cattle, income from weaving, access to bank accounts, and investment in income-generating activities have a significant positive impact on food consumption. Conversely, the recent purchase of agricultural assets and disaster preparedness measures have a negative effect on FCS.

Sirapat Chongwattanaboon (M2, SIRPA, Fudan University)

Chinese FDI and Thailand's ESG-Promoted Sectors: The Alignment and Policy Responsiveness,
2015–2024

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles have become central to Thailand's investment policy over the past decade, reflected in initiatives such as Thailand 4.0, the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model, and the Thailand Green Taxonomy. These frameworks aim to restructure industrial development toward sustainability and attract ESG-oriented foreign direct investment (FDI). At the same time, China has become one of Thailand's largest FDI sources, with major investments in machinery and vehicles, electrical appliances and electronics, and light industries. While existing literature has examined institutional determinants of FDI in ASEAN, the evolution of Chinese outward investment, and the role of host-country ESG policies, there is little empirical evidence on how Thai ESG policies have influenced investment behavior. This ongoing research explores **the extent to which Chinese FDI in Thailand has aligned with ESG-promoted sectors identified in national policy frameworks from 2015 to 2024**, and whether investment patterns show responsiveness to key ESG-related policy milestones.

The study adopts an explanatory-descriptive design, combining policy content analysis with quantitative trend analysis. Thai policy documents are analyzed to develop an ESG-tagging method based on explicit policy criteria, classifying sectors as ESG-aligned, non-ESG, or mixed/conditional. Board of Investment (BOI) data on approved Chinese FDI projects are then aggregated by sector and year, capturing both project counts and investment value. These data are analyzed to map sectoral trends, compare ESG and non-ESG sectors, and assess their association with key ESG-related policy milestones. The analysis focuses on descriptive patterns rather than statistical inference and does not make causal claims.

The research examines whether Chinese FDI increasingly aligns with ESG-promoted sectors, shows greater consistency over time, responds to major policy milestones, and concentrates in prioritized sectors. Together, these dimensions test how Chinese investors may be influenced by host-country sustainability priorities and policy signals.

By applying a policy-based ESG-tagging approach and integrating BOI investment data with Thailand's sustainability agenda, this study addresses gaps in the literature. It offers an empirical mapping of Chinese FDI alignment with ESG priorities, a transparent ESG classification method grounded in host-country policy, and an interpretation of how institutional incentives shape foreign investor behavior. The findings are expected to provide insights for ESG policy refinement in Thailand, support regional policy learning in ASEAN, and encourage alignment of Chinese outward investment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in emerging markets.

Jo Cheon An (M2, GSIS, Korea University)

Digital trade in Laos & risk management

Do digital trade restrictions benefit exporting or importing countries in facilitating manufacturing trade? To address this question, I analyzed the Digital Service Trade Restriction Index (DSTRI) as a measure of digital trade barriers alongside bilateral export values across 15 manufacturing sectors from 59 countries during 2014-2019.

The findings reveal that DSTRI negatively impacts exports from exporting countries while showing no significant effect on importing countries' trade performance. Among DSTRI's five constituent components, infrastructure connectivity and electronic transaction restrictions emerge as the most significant factors contributing to trade reduction. The empirical evidence demonstrates that digital trade restrictions disproportionately burden exporting nations, undermining their export performance.

However, results differ when focusing on ASEAN countries. When ASEAN countries serve as exporters and the full sample as importers, digital regulations have little significant effect on exports, while increasing trade for importing countries. Conversely, when the 59 sample countries export to ASEAN importers, regulations demonstrate insignificant effects on trade values for both exporting and importing countries.

The analysis identifies Lao PDR as exhibiting one of the highest DSTRI scores among sample countries. Based on these results, this study presents empirical evidence and policy recommendations for Lao PDR to optimize its digital trade framework, thereby enhancing export competitiveness while maintaining appropriate risk management protocols.

Takumi Koike (D1, GSICS, Kobe University)

Double-Shift Schooling in Cambodian Primary Education: Spatial Determinants and Educational Impacts

To rapidly expand access to education under international goals such as Education for All (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), many developing countries adopted double-shift schooling (DSS) as a cost-effective response to severe shortages in funding, infrastructure, and teaching staff. This study examines the spatial distribution and educational consequences of DSS in Cambodian primary education, with a focus on identifying and managing systemic risks associated with unequal access and compromised educational outcomes.

Although Cambodia's Education Strategic Plan 2024–2028 prioritizes a transition to full-day schooling, more than 60% of primary schools still operate under the DSS system. While DSS allows greater coverage within limited resources, it also carries substantial risks, including reduced instructional time, teacher overload, and weaker student engagement.

This research addresses two core questions. First, it explores where and why DSS is implemented across Cambodia. Using administrative data, the study applies spatial econometric models to assess how and to what extent DSS is related to demographic and socioeconomic factors and how it varies geographically. Second, the study evaluates the impact of DSS on educational outcomes. Employing the instrumental variable (IV) approach, it estimates the causal effect of the DSS on educational outcomes. These findings contribute to managing the risk of long-term disadvantage by adopting DSS in resource-constrained settings.

This research contributes to the literature by addressing the spatial heterogeneity of DSS and by employing robust econometric techniques to estimate its causal impact. The findings are expected to inform evidence-based policymaking in Cambodia's education sector, supporting efforts to allocate resources more equitably and transition effectively toward full-day schooling. By highlighting where DSS is concentrated, why it persists, and how it influences student outcomes, the study offers critical insights for the design of context-sensitive education reforms in low-resource settings.

Student Session 4

Taewook Jeon (M1, GSIS, Korea University)

Laos and the Framework of Multilateral Cooperation: Case Study on Mekong River

The Mekong River, one of Southeast Asia's most ecologically and geopolitically significant transboundary rivers, has become an arena of increasing tension between national development agendas and regional cooperation frameworks. For the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the river represents both an economic lifeline and a source of diplomatic complexity. As a landlocked country pursuing aggressive hydropower expansion, Laos has branded itself the "Battery of Southeast Asia." At the same time, its dam-building efforts have drawn criticism from downstream countries and civil society groups concerned with ecological degradation, fisheries collapse, and transboundary water insecurity.

This research examines how Laos engages with multilateral cooperation mechanisms related to the governance of the Mekong River, focusing on the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and the Mekong–Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF). These frameworks aim to promote sustainable development, environmental monitoring, and regional dialogue among riparian states, but they often lack enforcement power and reflect broader asymmetries of influence and capacity. By analyzing how Laos negotiates its position within these institutions—particularly through case studies such as the Xayaburi and Don Sahong dam consultations—this study interrogates the tension between national sovereignty and regional responsibility in the management of shared natural resources.

Through field interviews with MRC and KOICA officials, Lao government representatives, and regional experts, combined with document analysis of consultation records and project evaluations, this research seeks to understand how Laos balances hydropower ambitions with its multilateral commitments. It asks whether and how a small, aid-dependent state can exert agency in institutions often shaped by donor logics and downstream pressures.

Ultimately, this study contributes to broader debates on small-state diplomacy, transboundary water governance, and the limits of multilateralism in Southeast Asia. By focusing on the lived experiences of multilateral engagement—rather than formal treaty texts or donor narratives—it offers a grounded, field-based perspective on how multilateral cooperation is practiced, adapted, and sometimes resisted on the margins of regional power.

Maksymilian Szabatin (M2, SIRPA, Fudan University)

Evaluation of Poland's Innovation Policies (2017–2023): Assessing the Strategy for Responsible Development through Mission-oriented Innovation Policy

Poland, as a one of the most rapidly developing country in the European Union, still faces significant challenges in achieving sustainable economic growth through innovation. Historically, Poland endured geopolitical instability marked by partitions, World Wars, and Soviet domination, which heavily impacted its industrial and innovation capacities. Since the transformative shift of 1989 and the accession to the European Union in 2004, Poland's economy has achieved substantial progress. Nonetheless, the country still confronts critical developmental traps, particularly significant innovation gap that restricts its potential for long-term economic competitiveness.

This research evaluates Poland's recent innovation policies (2017–2023), mainly focusing on the Strategy for Responsible Development (SRD), through the lens of mission-oriented innovation policy. The SRD aimed to shift Poland's economy toward higher-value-added industries through increased R&D spending, support for innovative enterprises, and strategic sectoral missions. Employing a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative analyses of innovation indicators (such as R&D expenditures, patents, and sectoral innovation outputs) with qualitative assessments through expert interviews and document reviews, this thesis identifies critical factors driving or limiting Poland's innovation efforts.

Preliminary findings indicate that despite significant increases in R&D investments and the successful expansion of specific sectors such as electromobility (electric buses), overall innovation outcomes remain moderate, evidenced by modest growth in international patent applications. The analysis also highlights key barriers such as excessive bureaucracy, fragmented policy implementation, and insufficient public-private-academic collaboration. Moreover, Poland's innovation landscape is further challenged by external geopolitical events including the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's aggression against Ukraine (2014 and 2022), intensifying the urgency for robust innovation strategies in specific sectors, such as military.

Given the competitive pressures within Europe and globally, this thesis underscores Poland's need for deeper international cooperation in innovation, particularly with dynamically growing economies in East Asia. While cooperation with Japan and particularly South Korea in military and high-tech sectors has begun to grow, this research suggests further expanding collaborative networks with China and ASEAN countries to leverage mutual innovation capacities and mitigate geopolitical risks.

Ultimately, this study provides a comprehensive evaluation of Poland's recent innovation policies, offering insights and policy recommendations for enhancing Poland's innovation performance and international collaboration amid a challenging and rapidly evolving global environment.

Phoyphailin Inthavong (M2, FEB, National University of Laos)

The Attitudes of Accounting Staff in Small and Medium Enterprises Toward the Implementation of the Lao Financial Reporting Standards (LFRS): A Case Study in Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital

This thesis is a study of “The Attitudes of Accounting Staff in Small and Medium Enterprises Toward the Implementation of the Lao Financial Reporting Standards (LFRS): A Case Study in Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital” The study had two main objectives: (1) to examine the attitudes of SME accounting staff towards the implementation of LFRS, (2) to compare these attitudes based on individual factors such as education level, field of study, work experience, and business sector. This quantitative research utilized a structured questionnaire distributed to a sample of 210 respondents. Data were analyzed using SPSS software. Descriptive statistics (frequency and percentage) were applied to analyze general demographic information, while mean and standard deviation (SD) were used to measure attitude levels. Hypothesis testing was conducted using one-way ANOVA (F-test), with the LSD test employed for pairwise comparisons. The findings showed that most respondents were female, aged 26–30, held a bachelor's degree in accounting or finance, worked as accountants, and had 2–5 years of work experience. The majority were employed in the service sector, with businesses operating for 3–5 years. Overall, the attitudes of accounting staff toward the implementation of LFRS across four dimensions—Fundamentals of LFRS, Benefits of LFRS, Government and stakeholder support, and Challenges in compliance were rated as high. Furthermore, the comparative analysis revealed statistically significant differences in attitudes based on education level, field of study, work experience, and business sector.

Nadia de Abreu Bengo (D2, GSICS, Kobe University)

Topic: Formative Program Evaluation in In-Service Primary School Teacher Training: Technology for Data Collection and Analysis

In Angola, in-service primary school teachers regularly participated in training aimed at improving their pedagogical, subject-specific expertise, and classroom management skills. For example, according to formative program evaluation reports, 49 percent of in-service teachers received training in 2021, compared to 17 percent in 2019.

However, the practical application of formative program evaluation, an approach intended to support evaluators, education officers, and stakeholder experts in using feedback to assess, adapt, and improve training, remains limited to regulatory accountability mechanisms or limited to administrative data collection. It includes tracking in-service teacher training attendance, identifying program providers, and reporting the quantity and types of delivered programs.

The limited implementation of formative program evaluation as a regulatory accountability mechanism constrains its potential to design local evaluation policies and use of technology to collect, analyze, and share information promptly among evaluators and leadership. Moreover, it also limits evaluators' ability to propose corrective actions, implement context-responsive training, and encourage problem-solving activities.

This qualitative study adopts Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to investigate the strategies implemented by education officers and stakeholders to adapt formative program evaluation to Angolan local contexts. Data were collected through document analysis and interviews with regional education officers and stakeholders. The study is grounded on Empowerment Evaluation Theory.

The analysis reveals two key challenges: First, limited evaluation policies and guidelines affect the selection of appropriate data collection methods and tools, resulting in the gathering of information disconnected from teaching contexts. Second, the use of technological tools to support formative program evaluation depends on resource availability, leading to uneven implementation of in-service teacher training across regions.

Limited evaluation policies and resource allocation influence organizational learning and government effectiveness in the education sector. When evaluation mechanisms are weak, they hinder the development of context-responsive in-service teacher training and restrict the collection of reliable information necessary for informed decision-making.

These findings state the need to reform current evaluation practices. By adopting contextually relevant policies and investing in appropriate technological tools, education authorities can improve in-service training for primary school teachers in Angola.

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LOCATION AND CONTACT

LOCATION

The National University of Laos has 5 campuses:

1. Dongdok Campus (Main Campus and venue of the Symposium)
2. Tadthong Campus
3. Sokpaluang Campus
4. Nabong Campus
5. Donenokkhoum Campus

The symposium will be held at Faculty of Economics and Business Management (FEB), which is located on the Dongdok Campus in the Xaythany District.

Scan here to view the google map.



FEB at Dongdok Campus



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