



CENTRE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA RESEARCH
SEMINAR SERIES 2017/2018

15:30 – 17:00 | Thursday, April 19th, 2018

Room 231, C.K. Choi Building

The University of British Columbia, 1855 West Mall, Vancouver

The University of British Columbia’s Centre for Southeast Asia Research (CSEAR) at the Institute of Asian Research (IAR), School of Public Policy presents

Japan’s Multi-Level Water Governance Export to Southeast Asia



This presentation explores the effectiveness of water governance on administrative capacity through multi-stakeholder partnerships in the context of development cooperation. By applying multi-level governance approach, it analyzes complex governance coordination in water governance and how experts from Japanese cities, firms and development agencies promote norms within transnational networks through local level water development projects in *Yangon, Myanmar* and *Manila, the Philippines*. While the water sector in Myanmar is centralized and publicly owned, on the other hand, the water sector in the Philippines has been decentralized and privatized since the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997. Among many water-related problems, high Non-Revenue Water (NRW) rates are critical issues in both Yangon and Manila, referring to water that is lost from the water supply system because of leaks, bursts or theft, which is related to institutional and governance causes. The aims of different water partnerships can be categorized as involving *service provision, knowledge transfer* and *standard setting*. This study presents the roles of Japanese and local actors as “norm entrepreneur” and “norm transmitter”. It suggests that transnational norms do not just diffuse vertically but the process of norm diffusion could be also bottom-up and horizontal, that are created and framed by local actors according to their institutional backgrounds.

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