



ASEAN FOUNDATION

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ASEAN Foundation, ADB, gTKP and AIT support international workshop for transport planners and engineers



The ASEAN Foundation, in partnership with the Asian Institute of Technology, Asian Development Bank, Asia Pacific Regional Secretariat of the International Forum for Rural Transport and Development, and the Global Transport Knowledge Partnership, supported the “International Workshop on Gender, Economic Integration and Cross-border Road Infrastructure Development: Poverty and Mobility in the Context of Asia” held on 11-12 June 2010 at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Conference Center in Thailand. Dr. Filemon A. Uriarte, Jr., Executive Director of ASEAN Foundation welcomed over 70 experts and researchers from ASEAN countries, South Asia, China and Africa. Prof. *Sudip Rakshit*, Vice President for Research of AIT, Mr. Tomoyuki Sakairi, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, Ms. Sonomi Tanaka, Principal Social Development of the Asian Development Bank and Mr. Ranjith de Silva, Regional Coordinator of the Asia Pacific Regional Secretariat of the IFRTD also delivered their statements during the opening ceremony.

The workshop is the culminating activity of the project “Capacity building for gender, poverty and mobility analysis of road transportation development in GMS region”, which is implemented by AIT and funded by the ASEAN Foundation through the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund. The project is in line with the mandate of the ASEAN Foundation to contribute to the evolution of a development strategy that promotes mutual assistance, equitable economic development and the alleviation of poverty in the region. Specifically, the project aims to fill the gap in the capacity for gender, poverty and mobility analysis in road infrastructure development among government officers in four GMS countries, namely Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar. It also seeks to examine how road transportation development can be effective in promoting regional mobility and migration while protecting the rights of vulnerable people. The workshop, in particular, discussed the nexus between regional economic integration, mobility of goods and people, and changing livelihoods and gender relations based on case studies from various countries. Experiences and insights were shared among transport planners and engineers, social scientists and NGO workers. Twenty-six papers were presented, the abstracts of which are available in the project website: <http://www.genderandtransport.ait.ac.th>.

The ASEAN Foundation was established by the Leaders of ASEAN in 1997 to promote ASEAN awareness and identity, encourage interaction among various ASEAN stakeholders and help address socio-economic disparity and poverty issues in the region. Since its establishment, the ASEAN Foundation has so far supported over 100 development projects amounting to nearly US\$ 20 million and provided training to over 18,000 ASEAN nationals.

The Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund is the contribution from the Government of Japan to the Project Fund of ASEAN Foundation amounting to USD 20 million to support social development projects and help strengthen Japan-ASEAN cooperation.

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