

## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



Chulalongkorn University Right Livelihood Summer School (CURLS)

## CURLS 2016

### *The COMMONS, COMPASSION & COMMUNITIES*

#### Organizing partners:

**Chulalongkorn University**, Bangkok, Thailand (CU); **Royal University of Bhutan**, (RUB); **Right Livelihood College** (RLC); **Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation** (SNF), Thailand

**Part I:** EXPLORING THE COMMONS AND OURSELVES, Thailand, 10 – 24 July

**Part II:** SEEDS OF HAPPINESS, Bhutan, 23 July – 7 August

Once we cultivate genuine compassion, the soil is prepared to receive seeds of happiness. Communities grow and shape the commons.

Seeds are essential for our livelihoods, for our food and the security of future generations. Private and public property regimes are not sufficient to match with the challenges of sustainable development. **When we take good care of the Earth, grow our food with dignity and organize our consumption sustainably, we can speak of “Right Livelihood”.** For achieving this goal we have to re-examine our worldviews and re-think the governance paradigms ruling our world. Land-grabbing, seed dependency and corporate strategies to get hold of our lives by means of intellectual property challenge the very foundations of our Human Security.

Since 1980 the work of outstanding activists, practitioners and visionaries is recognized with the **Right Livelihood Award** (known as the Alternative Nobel Prize) during an annual ceremony in the Swedish Parliament. Later the Right Livelihood College was formed as a network of universities and learning centres providing a platform for interaction and exchanges with Right Livelihood laureates. The Right Livelihood Summer School enables laureates to multiply their transformative insights

through mutual learning processes. The first Right Livelihood Summer School is being organized by a partnership based at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok: the **Chulalongkorn University Right Livelihood Summer School: CURLS**.

**Sulak Sivaraksa** is a Right Livelihood laureate based in Thailand. He founded the Sathirakoses Nagaparidipa Foundation (SNF), an umbrella for a network of independent civil society organisations and social enterprises. Around Sulak Sivaraksa and together with CU, RUB, RLC, Right Livelihood Award laureates including Vandana Shiva, Helena Norberg Hodge, Nicanor Perlas, Anwar Fazal, Walden Bello, GRAIN, Hans R. Herren and Bill McKibben, an **academia – civil society platform** has been shaped. In the framework of this *Wellbeing Studies Programme* the partners organize together the annual Right Livelihood Summer School. The academic exchanges and social analysis typical for CURLS 2016 will be held at the campus of Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, with **field studies** in the North, South, East, South of Thailand and **reflective art works** at Wongsanit Ashram near Bangkok. For the first time in 2016 **Participatory Action Research (PAR)** field studies will be undertaken in Bhutan in collaboration with the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB).

Participants can register for both parts of CURLS 2016 or for the parts in Thailand and Bhutan only. Both groups of **maximum 24 participants** will meet in Bangkok during the weekend of 23 – 24 July. Our aim is to grow an action-research network of (young) independent academics, activists and practitioners strengthening the Right Livelihood movement. Right Livelihood is one of the 8 steps of the Buddhist Noble Eightfold Path, but its core meaning is universal and points at an engaged spiritual approach to transforming the world and our livelihoods to achieve sustainability, wellbeing and social justice for all. It resonates, among others, with Gross National Happiness the national philosophy of Bhutan and *buen vivir* in Latin America and elsewhere. What these movements have in common is deep interest and determination towards the quality of life, collective happiness and the cultivation of critical love, compassion, for the Earth and all living beings.

**The livelihoods of farmers and farmers' communities, their dedication to agroecology and self-reliance and the challenges to interact with urban consumers and social entrepreneurs towards a new economy are central in CURLS 2016.**

The video of last years' summer school CURLS 2015 *Action Research: Empowering Right Livelihood* can be viewed here:

<https://wellbeingsummer.wordpress.com/2015/09/13/a-summary-video-of-the-curls-2015/>

## CURLS Registration before 1 March 2016:

### ***The COMMONS, COMPASSION AND COMMUNITIES***

**10 – 24 July Part I: EXPLORING THE COMMONS AND OURSELVES, Thailand – USD 1,000** (tuition, local travel, accommodation, meals, learning materials).

Conceptual and experiential exploration, field work on Right Livelihood and engaged buddhism (“buddhism with a small b”), land rights and land grabbing in the Mekong region and Asia, the commons, compassion and care for Nature. Community resilience, mindful markets and sustainable cities.

Right Livelihood Award laureates intending to be resource persons of CURLS 2016 in Thailand (confirmation follows) are:

**Henk Hobbelink** (the Netherlands/Spain) and **Kartini Samon** (Indonesia), **GRAIN**; **Nicanor Perlas** (Philippines), founder of the **Centre for Alternative Development Initiatives (CADI)**; **Sulak Sivaraksa** (Thailand, Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation) founder of the **International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB)**; **Walden Bello (Philippines)**, **Focus on the Global South**.

Resource persons:

Other resource persons (confirmation follows): Surat Horachaikul, Surichai Wung’gao, Carl Middleton, Jirayudh Sinthuphan (Chulalongkorn University), Dasho Karma Ura (Centre for Bhutan Studies), partners from the *Towards Organic Asia* (TOA) network, Alok Ufat (*Avikal*, initiative for life), Wallapa and Hans van Willenswaard (Suan Nguen Mee Ma social enterprise), Chatchawan Thongdeelert (Lanna local wisdom network, North Thailand), Nicola Bullard (CCFD-Terre Solidaire, France) and Shalmali Guttal (Focus on the Global South).

**Please contact for more information on CURLS 2016 and details of registration procedure: Kittikhun Bhukhongkha [kittikhb@gmail.com](mailto:kittikhb@gmail.com)**

**23 July – 7 August Part II: SEEDS OF HAPPINESS, Bhutan – USD 1,200** (includes international travel Bangkok – Paro, tuition, local travel, accommodation, meals, learning materials)

The field summer school - II - in Bhutan will generate ideas for the future of Agri-Culture based on 3 sources:

one, the concepts and practices from international scholars linked to the Right Livelihood Movement, Defence of Seeds and Biodiversity, Food Cultures, Indigenous wisdom and cosmivision of Agri-Culture, Agro-ecology and Food Sovereignty,

Menace of Climate Change, Alternatives to Development, Decolonising knowledge, science and development;

second, the diverse cultural understandings of Right Livelihood in the world (Buenvivir, Ubuntu...) and especially in Bhutan (the 4 GNH pillars, 9 domains and 72 indicators);

third, the diverse cultural insights of farming communities about their life and agriculture, as the local farming families and communities still preserve their holistic integration with nature producing healthy food in a sustainable and creative way.

Within this Right Livelihood Vision we want to study the spiritual and biological wealth of indigenous knowledge on natural resources by looking deeper into the traditions of Agri-Culture in 4 different regions of Bhutan and generate/affirm creative ideas for a self-reliant policy at local, regional and international levels and to redefine the role of science as partner of farming societies.

Right Livelihood Award laureates intending to be resource persons of CURLS 2016 (confirmation follows) in Bhutan are:

**Henk Hobbelink** (the Netherlands/Spain) and **Kartini Samon** (Indonesia), **GRAIN**; **Anwar Fazal** (Malaysia), director of the **Right Livelihood College**; **Mehda Paktar** (India), **Narmada Bachao Andolan**; **Walden Bello** (Philippines), **Focus on the Global South**.

Resource persons (confirmation follows):

Karma Ura (CBS), Karma Phuntsho (Loden Foundation), Drungtsho Dophu (NITM), Neten Zangmo, Professor from Chulalongorn University (to be named), Gum Sha Awng (Metta Development Foundation, Burma), Michel Pimbert (CAWR, Coventry University, U.K.), Shalmali Guttal (Focus on the Global South) and other experts and local wisdom leaders from Bhutan.

Organisers in Bhutan:

Dasho Nidup Dorji, Phanchung, Tshering Choden, Phub Dorji, Tulsi Gurung, Sonam Tashi, Thubten Gyatsho, Kezang Sherab, Timmi Tillmann, Maruja Salas

**Please contact for more information and details of registration procedure:**

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