



Konrad  
Adenauer  
Stiftung

## PROGRAMME

### MEDIA WORKSHOP

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY SECURITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

organised by

Regional Project Energy Security and Climate Change Asia-Pacific (RECAP),  
Konrad- Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) / Hong Kong

**Date:** 23–25 September  
**Venue:** Sihanoukville / Cambodia  
Hotel Independence  
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## INTRODUCTION

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing humanity today and in the next generations. The changes of the last 60 years are unprecedented in recent history: There is strong scientific evidence that the increase of global temperature and the rising of sea levels is being caused by human activity. Since the industrial revolution which started in Europe during the 18th century societies have relied heavily on the excessive burning of fossil energy resources. This process is being escalated currently by the big emerging market economies like China, India and Brazil, whose energy consumption is rapidly catching up with western industrialized societies.


Above all, the striking effects are already being seen by a combination of deforestation, extensive use of land for agriculture as well as the rapid process of urbanization. These problems are interlinked with climate change because of the reduced capacities for storing carbon dioxide. In countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Cambodia the population is already witnessing negative impacts on society in the form of increased intensity of floods and droughts.

However, public misconceptions and misinformation about various aspects of climate change remain widespread and are often deeply rooted, presenting significant barriers to learning and understanding. In this respect journalists can play a key role in shaping the information that reaches opinion leaders and the public so that they can more accurately judge the urgency of dealing with climate change, what needs to be done, how quickly, and at what costs.

It is a vast, multifaceted story whose complexity seems to be somewhat overwhelming. But it depends on the professionalism of a journalist, to understand, analyse and creating a compelling narrative. Therefore, media can be an intermediate between the scientific community as well as the continuing flow of conferences and decision making process on the international level (i.e. UN, ASEAN, EU) as well as national stakeholders and concerned citizens on the national level.

## CHALLENGES FOR JOURNALISTS

Climate change coverage is probable one of the most challenging specializations in journalism. It is at a crossroads, as it moves beyond the science of



global warming into the broader arena of what governments, entrepreneurs, and ordinary citizens are doing about it.

The complexity of this “wicked problem” (Frank Incropera) requires a compelling and comprehensive approach in media coverage. There are at least four levels on which journalists can tackle the challenges:

- Journalists need to build up broad knowledge which can be transformed in a well-founded narrative. However, regarding these skills the role of media is not only limited to reporting what happened. Journalists are also opinion builders in their own right. By tracing and critically analyzing new trends and tendencies in the area of climate change, adaptation, mitigation and renewable energy, the media provide decision makers with invaluable information, thereby ensuring such matters as the quality of legislation.
- Experience has shown that visual media tools, such as video, are effective in communicating scientific concepts and helping viewers retain that knowledge. Climate change coverage uses all tools of modern multimedia storytelling. Print still plays a key role in in-depth analysis of complex issues, telling salient narratives. If accompanied by audio and visualization this can have an even more powerful effect. Moreover, by creating multimedia formats and fostering conversation via social media, journalists can play a key role in integrating climate change science with media literacy, becoming actively engaged in and reaching out to civil society.
- In media newsrooms reporting about climate change requires thoughtful leadership and management. Editors need to connect the profound expertise of environment, energy, and science reporters with other beats that have an important piece of the story — from local and national politics to foreign affairs, business, technology, health, urban affairs, agriculture, transportation, law, architecture, consumer news, travel, and sports. News coverage of climate change is inherently a team effort, working in small collaborative groups with a common goal and focus will provide the best practice and compelling journalistic results.
- In general, the job of a journalist has changed profoundly. Even the lines between “traditional” and “new” media have become blurred: Digital technology is becoming increasingly central for citizens` participation

in society. Journalists must anticipate this development and have to encourage others to share user generated contents. This is even due to climate change which has an impact on the daily life of people. That means: Let normal people tell what is happening, for example if their livelihood is threatened by droughts and floods or rising sea levels. The journalist`s task is to seek out an audience, to understand it and engage with it.

## **PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop is aimed at media students as well as young professionals who are working in all forms of journalism (print, online, broadcast, video and TV) They do not necessarily need to have a scientific background Experience in reporting on environmental issues is an advantage, but not essential for the workshop. Journalists working in non-English media are welcome, but should have a proficiency in English, as it is the language of instruction for this workshop.

## **OVERALL OBJECTIVES**

This workshop will give participants a firm grounding in the dynamic of climate change and energy security. It aims to answer questions such as: How has the climate changed in the past and how it is changing now? What are the impacts expected in Southeast Asia and Cambodia? How can we use knowledge of climate change to inform adaptation and mitigation? How are policymakers addressing this challenge?

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Have a deeper view of the root causes of climate change, and its potential impacts on people`s livelihoods as well as on the global economy and the economies of developing countries (specific focus: Southeast Asia)
- Position him/herself in relation to some of the sceptics and myths related to climate change with scientific data and evidences

- Transfer the discussion on the science, politics and policy of climate change and energy security to readers/audiences of their particular media outlet
- Analyse challenges, potential opportunities and threats related to climate change adaptation and mitigation for Southeast Asia/Cambodia as well as sustainable energy solutions
- Take a stand in the public debate about climate change and make a life style choice which reflects a healthy low carbon footprint
- Explore journalistic skills (investigative journalism) in the field of climate change/sustainable energy solutions: Sources, research and story development (focus: Cambodia)

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## AGENDA

### SEPTEMBER 2016 (PRE-EVENT)

- Introduction of approach and structure of the workshop
- Introduction into the topics (8 hrs; online learning)
- Clarification of potential reporting topics
- Pre-inquiry and approach to experts
- Clarification of post-event use of reports
- Initial Coaching with trainers

### FRIDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2016

10.00                      Transfer by bus from Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville


Early afternoon      Arrival of participants

16.00 hrs                Welcoming remarks

Dr. Peter HEFELE, Director KAS RECAP

Rene GRADWOHL, Director KAS Cambodia

Andreas OLDAG, Lecturer DMC

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- 16.15 hrs Introduction of participants
- 17.00 hrs “Energy security and climate change” – A global perspective  
Dr. Peter HEFELE  
Dr. Birgit WETZEL, free-lance journalist, Berlin/Germany
- 18.30 hrs Dinner  
Venue: Hotel Independence
- 19.30 hrs Get together / movie presentation etc.

#### SATURDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2016

- 9.00 hrs “Energy security and Climate Change” in South-East Asia  
Introduction into the topic  
National and regional experts
- PART I: STATUS QUO AND CHALLENGES**
- Topic:
- Current situation of pollution and impacts in the region

- 12.00 hrs Lunch  
Venue: Independence Hotel

**PART II: COPING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE: MITIGATION AND AD-APTATION**

National and regional experts

- Topics:
- Evaluation of mitigation and adaption strategies
  - Case studies on South/South East Asia

18.00 hrs      Dinner  
Venue: Sokha Beach Resort

#### SUNDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2016

9.00 hrs      Preparation of field studies  
Andreas OLDAG  
Dr. Birgit WETZEL

Topic: Investigative journalism in the field of energy and climate

12.00 hrs      Lunch  
Venue: Independence Hotel

15.00 hrs      Practical exercises (working groups)  
Preparation of field studies

18.00 hrs      Dinner  
Venue: Independence Hotel

#### MONDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2016

Departure of participants

#### SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2016 (FIELD TRIPS AND CASE STUDIES)

- Individual field studies
- 2-3 participants per group (mixed teams consisting of students and experienced journalists)
- Investigations and compilation of products (print, video, etc.)



Venue: Various locations in Cambodia

## OCTOBER 2016 (POST-EVENT)

Half day            Evaluation of Event

- Presentation of results
- Discussion of follow-up measures
- Awarding ceremony

Venue: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Office, Phnom Penh

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