**Panel Proposal for EUROSEAS Conference 2024**

1. **Measuring Societal Progress through Social Justice and Sustainability Lens: Southeast Asia and European Experiences and Collective Challenges**
2. **Convener**

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1. **Format**

The panel will be a session of diverse presenters from Southeast Asia and Europe regions to share their research outcomes from different contexts and perspectives. Within 90 minutes, each presenter has 12 minutes for the presentation, the discussant has 12 minutes, and the rest (30 minutes) will be a Q&A session. The discussant will facilitate the discussion on social justice and sustainability concepts and their implications within societal progress measurement of developing and developed countries. The insightful reflection and shared experiences from other scholarly participants will expand the understanding and expose unknown questions for further study.

1. **Panel Description**

*How are societies making progress, and at what rate?* Inquiry into those questions requires more interrogations on the vision of a better society, its underpinning values, indicators reflecting expected societal progress, and their implications in the decision-making process. The shift from a growth-based paradigm to beyond-growth debates has enlarged society's goals to multiple economic, social, and environmental aspects and introduced more options for new economic narratives, such as green and inclusive growth. For decades, the sustainability paradigm and concerns of emerging inequality contributed to alternative policy frameworks. Many European countries have developed diverse societal progress measurement systems and approaches for those advanced societal goals. Some examples are the *United Nations’ Global SDG Indicators*, whose global, regional and country data and metadata on the official SDG indicators have accompanied the annual SDG report, the *Bertelsmann’s Social Justice Index (SJI),* which are designed as a cross-national comparative survey to explore the level of just society among countries in OECD and the EU. Since the popularity of the evidence-based approach, most societal progress measurement approaches have adopted the quantitative method, only a few focus on other assessment methods such as the **qualitative assessment of community attitudes to progress and progress domains by** the evaluation of *Australia Progress in the 21st Century*. This indicates that societal progress measurement is not just an academic concern but also direct policy relevance and citizen engagement.

Nevertheless, many developing countries in Southeast Asia are deficient in publicly available databases and reliable statistical indicators. Collectiveness as a core value of the global development paradigm requires the development of comparable indicators among Southeast Asian countries. Each Southeast Asian country's societal progress measurement system becomes fragmented and overlooks the collective development goal at the regional and global levels.

As researchers and practitioners, tackling the issue of societal progress measurement aiming at a policy framework based on sustainability and social justice is one of our challenges. How does each country develop and imply its own progress measurement? Which approaches are applied theoretically and methodologically, and in which contexts? How do they fail or make a breakthrough? Apart from policymakers, how could the public use those societal progress measurements? What could we learn from each other? Contributions from multidisciplinary aspects with this theme are welcome.

1. **Single Session (1 x 90 min): 4 presenters (2 invited)**

* **The need for the combination of quantitative and qualitative assessment: Lesson learned from the development of the Thailand Social Justice Index**

Sayamol Charoenratana, Center of Excellence for Human Security and Inequity, Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute, Thailand

Because of the lack of a collective social justice vision, the statistical measurement of the progress of inequality reduction initiatives is negligent from policies and the country's development scheme. The purpose of this study is to explore Thailand's social justice level. The research methodology adopted Bertelsmann’s social justice conceptual framework and the GAPFRAME methodology. The results are a set of 39 normalized and scaled indicators, an assessment of each social justice dimension, and the composite index summarizing the social justice statistics in a single number. There is room for improving the quality of the total Social Justice Index despite the limits of quantitative indicators because qualitative policy assessment indicators could play an important role. The deficiency of publicly and comparable databases among developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region designates the necessity of a collective society progress measurement, including just sustainable development goals.

* **Evicted people of the creative city: Anthropological assessment of leaving no-one behind process in urban development**

Sasithorn Sinvuttaya, Silpakorn University, Thailand

As Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) put a great effort into becoming a ‘creative city’, it stated strongly that developing a creative economy requires space. Since land is a significant asset resource in Thailand, especially in Bangkok, urban space development always causes the eviction of local people/communities, among them less-fortuned workers without land ownership rights. Our study aims to inspect the development process of the creative economy district in Bangkok. The main study site is the continuous space around the BMA City Hall. Anthropological methodologies involving immersion in a community and analysis of people's interaction with their environment are applied. Based on the ‘leaving no one behind’ concept, the feasible impact of creative economy district development on disadvantaged people should be assessed. Additionally, the eviction in the name of development should be discussed. Could eviction, as a qualitative assessment, become another urban development measurement?

1. **Discussant**

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