

13TH INTERNATIONAL LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH - EAST ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL NETWORK REGIONAL CONFERENCE (2021 ILTER-EAP)

Panel discussion on *Connection, Co-design, and Implementation of Community LTER Science*

Date: Thursday, 9 September 2021

Time: 09:00 – 10:30 hrs. Thailand local time (UTC +7)

<https://www.13thilter-eapconference.com/panel>

Introduction

In 1995, the ILTER East Asia-Pacific Regional Network (ILTER-EAP) was established as one of the four regional networks that comprise ILTER. ILTER-EAP has been developed to promote data sharing, research collaborations and capability building in ecological science and to bridge gaps between societal needs and scientific imperatives on concerns in the Asia-Pacific Region from long-term perspectives. Currently, ILTER-EAP consists of eight formal ILTER members and over 160 sites across the EAP regions, and a few thousand scientists are involved in the ILTER-EAP.

As a regional network of ILTER, ILTER-EAP has the essential role of promoting data and knowledge sharing within the global community to further promote the value of ecological science in ensuring the sustainability of ecosystems and societies under climatic, societal and environmental change. The vision of ILTER-EAP in promoting ecological science is based on long-term monitoring and experiments conducted within site-based programs entailing local and regional networking connected to global networks.

ILTER-EAP is facing key challenges and opportunities in the coming decades to achieve this vision, including: 1) joint research across sites with linkage to societal needs; 2) networking, collaborating and linking; 3) data archiving, sharing and using; and 4) engaging, educating and outreaching.

Education and outreach, and networking and collaboration are major goals of the ILTER-EAP network's activities. From a recent review of ILTER perspectives, the ILTER-EAP is facing issues on how to promote education and public outreach and create opportunities for younger researchers who have not been involved previously in the network to generate a synthetic understanding of highly dynamic social and ecological systems.

Drawing on the strengths of the ILTER-EAP Network, notably various kinds of information and knowledge derived from long-term, site-based research of diverse ecosystems, efforts have aimed to link ILTER-EAP researchers with various international programs and organizations, including the Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (APBON), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the International Nitrogen Management System (INMS), the Global Land Programme (GLP), and the East Asian Federation of Ecological Societies (EAFES). In addition, it is widely anticipated that ILTER-EAP will contribute to and engage with sustainable development and biodiversity conservation policy at national and local levels across the region.

To this end, the organizing committee of the 13TH International Long-term Ecological Research – East Asia Pacific Scientific Conference has organized its programme around the theme of Citizen Science and its role in supporting long-term ecological-social monitoring systems and has included a panel discussion on *Connection, Co-design, and Implementation of Community LTER Science*.

Objective of the Panel Discussion

- Provide a forum for the exchange of views, dissemination of ideas and the development of possible future collaborations between ILTER-EAP and national, regional and international institutions and practitioners
- To engage younger researchers and interested individuals and institutions who have not been involved previously in the network to generate and promote long-term ecological and social research and sustainable natural resources management in East Asia-Pacific region

In order to achieve the objectives of the forum, the organizing committee has invited three (3) distinguished experts from the ILTER-EAP network: a policymaker in the region, and scientists from academic institutes working closely with civil societies. These experts will participate in the panel discussion to share knowledge, ideas, perceptions and best practices on each topic.

Expectations

- Participants learn about past and present scientific activities and major outputs and contributions from ILTER-EAP to the international initiatives, and the potential future role of ILTER-EAP in facilitating regional and global research collaborations.
- Identification of information and knowledge gaps for science-based sustainable development and nature-based solution policy at national and regional levels
- Opportunities for the role of the community in long-term ecological and social research

After the conference, the organizing committee will jointly produce outcome documents, which will be published on the ILTER-EAP website (<https://www.ilter.network/network/ilter-east-asia-pacific>) and/or on an international paper. The contents will be derived from what is presented during the workshops and will also include articles from the panelists, government agencies, academic institutions, and participants who share their inspiring stories on citizen science, networking and collaboration in supporting long-term ecological-social monitoring systems.

Potential questions for the panel discussion

(1) Scaling and integrating science

- What's the most powerful research agenda for international collaboration using the strength of the ILTER EAP network?
- COVID-19 has impacted international collaborative activities and communication styles. What are the challenges, and what are the new achievements or findings?
- How does Citizen Science help long term and large-scale studies? How can ILTER-EAP help facilitate participation and activities of citizen scientists?

(2) Engagement

- How do you deliver scientific data/knowledge to social stakeholders?
- How do you promote education/capacity building? Do you have any programs to engage younger generations or citizens? What is the success, and what are the challenges? How do the younger generations access the networks/institutions?
- What are the challenges or barriers to making the ILTER-EAP a more valuable network for science and education?

(3) Access to data and knowledge

- Open access and sharing of data and knowledge should be the keys to addressing regional or global cooperation. What are the success case and challenges in fostering data sharing?
- Do you have dedicated platforms or programs to support them?

- How do you motivate contributors to cooperate?

(4) Value and role of regional networks

- What do your networks or institutions aim at (in science, education, public service, etc.)?
- What are the current missions/roles of research networks or institutions in science, society, or policy input?
- Have the roles of research networks and institutions changed in the past years due to climate change and other environmental issues?
- What are the key roles of coordinators (at any levels/aspects) in these activities?

Panel Discussion on Connection, Co-design, and Implementation of Community LTER Science

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Moderators: Dr. Beryl Morris, Director of Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN), Australia
Dr. Nur Hajar Zamah Shari, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysia LTER

Panelists: Prof. Dr. Hiroyuki Muraoka, Chair of ILTER-EAP and Co-chair of APBON
Dr. Mundita S. Lim, Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
Professor Glenda Wardle, Chair, Ecosystem Science Council of Australia

09:00 – 09:05 Introduction of the session

09:05 – 09:35 Short presentation from the panelists (**25 minutes – 8 minutes each**)

09:35 - 10:25 Open discussion for knowledge and best practices sharing and Q&A (**50 minutes**)

10:25 – 10:30 Moderators' sum-up session (**5 minutes**)