

**Tracking Change... Global Knowledge Symposium**

*Mobilizing Local and Traditional Knowledge on Fishing Livelihoods:  
Fishers' Knowledge about the Impacts of the Pak Mun River Hydro Dam*

**February 20-25, 2017**



Photo Credit- International Rivers (2002)

**Ubon Ratchathani University**  
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

**อุบลราชธานี**

## Overview of the Symposium

The **Tracking Change...** research program has developed over the last year to advance knowledge through community-university research activities in the Mackenzie River Basin with emerging projects in the lower Mekong River Basin (Mun River) and in the lower Amazon Basin (Tapajos River).

A global knowledge symposium is being planned in Thailand for February 20-25<sup>th</sup> in the city of Ubon Ratchathani. Research team members will be hosted at Ubon Ratchathani University and in the local fishing village of Kho Tai. The aims of the gathering are to:

- *Create opportunities for Indigenous community participants from the Mackenzie River Basin and the lower Mekong River basin to share their own local and traditional knowledge about social-ecological change and develop a better understanding of its significance at global scales;*
- *Develop a deeper understanding of the knowledge, practices and beliefs of Lao/Thai fishers through a place-based learning activities in Kho Tai;*
- *Identify and advance theories and conceptual frameworks that can help explain trends and patterns in the livelihoods of fishing communities in the Mackenzie-Mekong-Amazon including the changes associated with hydro power;*
- *Strengthen research collaboration between graduate students, junior and senior faculty and community knowledge holders (fishers) and partners from Canada, Thailand and Brazil;*
- *Build global academic-community-policy networks that can effect change in the governance of the Mackenzie-Mekong-Amazon;*
- *Catalyze critical thinking about the methodological best-practice for studying and communicating about fisher knowledges and practices II*
- *Advance community reporting and academic publication through a facilitated writing workshop;*

The meeting will create opportunities for presentations (oral/poster) by community members, students, academics, policy-makers and partners, placed-based learning about fishing livelihoods in the Ubon Ratchathani Province of Thailand (particularly related to the Pak Mun River Dam), critical discussion with the ultimate aim of mobilizing knowledge being created through **Tracking Change..** and strengthening the research network at a global scale.

## Tracking Change... Global Knowledge Symposium DRAFT Schedule – February 20-26, 2016

<b>February 20</b> Travel Day	<b>Travel Day</b>	Arrival at Ubon Ratchathani Airport (Check In - Accommodation ] Sri Isan Hotel –Ubon Ratchathani 62-66 Ratchabout Road A, Muang Ubon Ratchathani Nai Mueang Ubon Ratchathani
<b>February 21</b> Day 1	<b>Symposium Day 1</b> 9-3PM	Ubon Ratchathani University Building and Room TBA (Rm. Dok Jaan 3) (Accom @ Sri Isan Hotel –Ubon Ratchathani) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mini bus to/ from the hotel and university</li> </ul>
<b>February 22</b> Day 2	<b>Symposium – Day 2</b> 9-3PM	Ubon Ratchathani University Building and Room TBA (Rm. Dok Jaan 3) (Accom.@ Sri Isan Hotel –Ubon Ratchathani) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mini bus to/ from the hotel and university</li> </ul>
<b>February 23</b> Day 3	<b>Kho Tai Fishing Village Knowledge Gathering</b> Place-based Global Learning – Interactive discussion with fishing villagers and community leaders	Kho Tai Fishing Village (located near Pak Mun River Dam)(Accom with Host Families) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel by minibuses</li> </ul>
<b>February 24</b> Day 4	<b>Kho Tai Fishing Village Knowledge Gathering</b> Visit to the Pak Mun River Dam and Tour with EGAT (Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand)	Kho Tai Fishing Village (located near Pak Mun River Dam) (Accommodation with Host Families) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel by minibuses</li> </ul>
<b>February 25</b> Travel Day	<b>Travel Day</b>	Departures from Kho Tai Fishing Village to Ubon Ratchathani Airport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel by minibuses</li> </ul>
<b>February 25</b> Optional	<b>Global Tracking Change Writing Workshop</b>	Ubon Ratchathani University Building and Room TBA (Rm. Dok Jaan 3) (Accommodation] Sri Isan Hotel –Ubon Ratchathani
<b>February 26</b> Travel Day	<b>Travel Day</b>	Departures to Ubon Ratchathani Airport

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## Travel Related Information

**Hosts:** We are very grateful to our research partner, Dr. Kanokwan Manorom, who is the lead coordinator for the meeting in Thailand along with her two Masters students. We are also thankful for the guidance and support of Dr. Ian Baird (University of Wisconsin, Madison) who is currently on sabbatical in Thailand and is also helping to coordinate this event. Ubon Ratchathani University is welcoming us to gather on their campus and to meet and work with their faculty and students during the symposium.



**Where are we going?** The meeting will be held in the city of Ubon Ratchathani in Northeastern, Thailand and in the near by fishing village of Kho Tai. You will be able to fly to Ubon Ratchathani via Bangkok. Transportation (minivans) will be provided by our hosts to travel to/from Kho Tai from Ubon Ratchathani (approx. 1 hr.). Here is a handy website about Ubon Ratchathani, which may be useful to familiarize yourself with the area and address some of your questions about services etc.: <http://www.weloveubon.com>

**Who is going?** Our *Tracking Change...* budget is limited for the event – we anticipate bringing 20-25 people from Canada/Brazil and hope to have good mix of our core research team members including graduate students, community / partner representatives and faculty/academics. We look forward to meeting an equal number of people from Ubon Ratchathani. Those with accepted community reports / abstracts will be included in the agenda as presenters (oral presentations / poster presentations) at the two-day symposium (Feb. 21-22). More details about the symposium will soon be on the website: [www.trackingchange.ca](http://www.trackingchange.ca)

**How do I get there?** Invited participants can book their flights through the University of Alberta (Maritime Travel) by contacting Elaine Maloney [elmaloney2015@gmail.com](mailto:elmaloney2015@gmail.com). Due to budget constraints, flights will be booked in economy class on either KLM Airlines, United Airlines, Delta Airlines via Amsterdam or via Hong Kong, Seoul or Narita Japan on Air China. If you wish to book alternate routing or use a different airline, or fly in a different part of the plane with more leg room and freshly squeezed orange juice, you may be asked

to cover a portion of the cost of your flight.

**Where are we staying?** A block of rooms for the event has been set aside at a hotel in downtown Ubon Ratchathani. This hotel has services in English with many recommended restaurants nearby. More information about how to book your room at the hotel will be forthcoming. If you wish to stay at a different hotel, you may be asked to cover the costs of your own accommodation. When we are visiting the local fishing village, Kho Tai, we will be billeted with host families.

**Healthcare and Shots:** Please consult your doctor about what shots you require before travel to Thailand. Here is a reference on health related questions: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/thailand>

**Travel - Health Insurance** – Please purchase your own international travel insurance such as that offered through “Blue Cross” and ensure you consult with your physician before traveling.

**Language** – English is not commonly spoken in Ubon Ratchathani. We will be able to use the services of translators in Kho Tai and during our symposium. For personal use and safety, however, you may want to download a talking language translator on your phone such as “*Talking Thai*”.

**Per Diems:** We cannot offer cash per diems prior to your departure but will reimburse per diem expenses upon your return at the rate defined for international travel by the University of Alberta.

**Passports and Travel Visas** – Now is a good time to get your passport or ensure it is up to date. No travel visa is required in advance of travel. If you are going to stay in Thailand for less than 30 days, you will be issued a 30-day visa upon landing in Bangkok.

**Dress Code:** Please ensure that you consult the February weather forecast for Ubon Ratchathani so you pack appropriately. Out of respect for the local cultural norms, women should wear clothing that is conservative. (NO tank tops or short skirts but shorter pants and short sleeve shirts are ok).

**Money and Services:** The local currency is Thai Baht. There is no ATM machine at the Sri Isan Hotel but there are various ATMs around the area. You should bring some Thai Baht with you however, in case you are stuck without an ATM nearby.

For more information, please contact [elmaloney2015@gmail.com](mailto:elmaloney2015@gmail.com)