

FILM SCREENINGS

THE VISUAL DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

Organiser: Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University

Overview

Southeast Asia is rich in ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. The region has maintained such diversity while at the same time achieving economic progress and becoming a hub for the flow of people, goods, money and information. Yet at present, the region is also confronted with serious issues such as a decrease in biodiversity and tropical forests, disasters, pandemics, aging populations, ethnic and religious conflicts, economic differentiation and poverty. In the face of this, how are coexistence and sustainability possible despite the diversity that exists? How can we make public resources out of the region's social foundations which are the basis of people's everyday lives?

In order to address these issues the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (Kyoto University) initiated the "Visual Documentary project" in 2012 to explicitly examine everyday life in Southeast Asia through documentary film making. This project aims to use visual forms of expression to complement the growing literature that exists on Southeast Asian societies. From 2014,

the Japan Foundation Asia Center has participated in this project as co-organizer to help widely promote the richness of Southeast Asian cultures to people in Japan and stimulate dialogue with ASEAN nations. As of 2016, the project has linked up with numerous film schools in the region to help strengthen documentary filmmaking networks.

<https://vdp.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp>

Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University

For over 50 years the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) has conducted research in Southeast Asia to formulate and pursue original research agendas. Amassing an extensive body of information through integrated area studies, CSEAS seeks to develop research frameworks based on extensive fieldwork and on observations that derive from the region's diversity. Currently, CSEAS is promoting trans-disciplinary collaborative research to form academic communities that can deal with transnational issues; move toward life-oriented research approaches attuned to regional diversity; create socially innovative approaches to the needs of the environment; and share and use global information resources with the regional and global academic world.



From *Lives under the Red Light*, Hem Vanna

FILM SCREENINGS / TIMETABLE

All Films are presented in the Film Screening Room located on the 1st Floor. See the Venue Floor Plan on page 4.

THURSDAY 20 JULY

11.35 – 11.55	The Clinic
12.00 – 12.20	Glass Man
12.25 – 12.45	Caring for the Cradle
12.50 – 13.10	Ageing Bangkok
14.20 – 14.30	For a Rainy Day
14.35 – 14.55	Pamana
15.00 – 15.15	On the Streets
15.20 – 15.35	The Burmese in Thailand
15.40 – 16.05	Consider

FRIDAY 21 JULY

9.20 – 9.35	Lives under the Red Lights
9.40 – 9.55	The Last Generation
10.00 – 10.15	More than a Tree
10.20 – 10.35	My Grandpa's Route has been Forever Blocked
11.35 – 12.00	Silence of the Summer
12.05 – 12.25	Echoes from the Hill
12.30 – 12.50	A Political Life
12.55 – 13.15	My Leg
14.20 – 15.30	Path of Anna: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow 2
16.30 – 18.15	Crossing the Line, Followed by a Q&A with Director Anita Barar

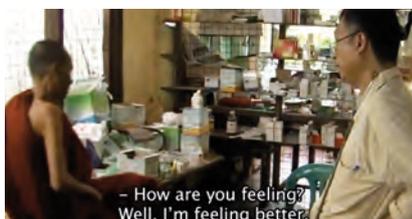
SATURDAY 22 JULY

9.20 – 9.45	Dedicated to Grandpa Dieu
9.50 – 10.20	Michael's
10.23 – 11.00	Nyalon
11.35 – 13.15	Sweet Medicine, Followed by a Q&A with Anita Hardon
14.20 – 15.00	Calalai
15.05 – 15.35	60 Days
15.40 – 15.55	Women of the Forest

SUNDAY 23 JULY

9.20 – 9.50	Mr Zero
10.00 – 10.30	Vein
11.35 – 12.00	Don't know much about ABC
12.05 – 12.35	Viral! Sial!
12.40 – 12.50	Fragile

FILM SCREENINGS / SYNOPSES



THE CLINIC

THURSDAY 20 JULY / 11.35 – 11.55

Director: Aung Min, Myanmar

2012 / 20 minutes

The Clinic shares the relationship between a 45 year old doctor and his clients. The protagonist, the clinic doctor, was brought up and trained under the education system of Myanmar socialist regime. Nonetheless, he made his own living as a clinic doctor. His clients come up with their different problems while he has own personal conflicts. This documentary developed as way to respond to his dilemmas.



CARING FOR THE CRADLE: MANGYANS AND MATERNAL HEALTH

THURSDAY 20 JULY / 12.25 – 12.45

Director: Jewel Ranier Ocampo, Philippines

2012 / 20 minutes

This documentary focuses on an indigenous group called the "Mangyan" (Alagan), in Mindoro Oriental, an island 6 hours away from Manila. It documents how their traditional birth methods are threatening them and why it's not so easy for them to get modern medical assistance. The documentary also shows how a simple idea can help the Mangyan reduce their maternal mortality rate.



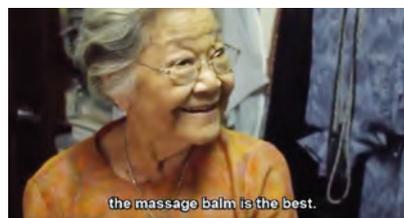
GLASS MAN

THURSDAY 20 JULY / 12.00 – 12.20

Director: Zay Yar Aung, Myanmar

2012 / 20 minutes

Kaung Htet is 20 years old and only 3 feet 9 inches. He is suffering from osteoporosis, with bones like glass which have broken over 40 times since birth. When he was a child, he was afraid of going out in public and depressed about his situation. However, since he was sent to the School for Disabled Children, his point of view on life and his mindset have changed.



AGEING BANGKOK

THURSDAY 20 JULY / 12.50 – 13.10

Director: Yanin Pongsuwan, Thailand

2012 / 19 minutes

Population aging is becoming significant issue in Thailand, yet there is still a lack of state's policy to develop the well-being of the elderly. This documentary focuses on the life of an old woman aged 84 named Ood, who has to fend for herself. Ood, previously an actress for films and TV commercials until the age of 62, seems independent, yet this documentary unintentionally shows her loneliness.



FOR A RAINY DAY

THURSDAY 20 JULY / 14.20 – 14.30

**Director: Nguyen Anh Phong VY, Vietnam
2013 / 12 minutes**

In a small alley in Hanoi's old town, where lots of families have been living together, a woman lives with her second son together with the family of her first son. Her life is a series of relentless working years along with uncompensated losses. At an old age, she still sells green tea daily to support herself and her mentally incapable son.



PAMANA

THURSDAY 20 JULY / 14.35 – 14.55

**Director: Giselle Joyce Nadine de la Peña, Philippines
2013 / 18 minutes**

This documentary tells the story of an Agta-Dumagat-Remontado community in Quezon Province who face the threat of losing their ancestral land. Various developmental projects by lowlanders have caused socio-political, economic, and environmental consequences, affecting both Agta and lowland communities. The Agta-Dumagat continue to struggle for their rights throughout decades of oppression and marginalization. The documentary sensitively show how through self-determination, the community was able to put up their own school that teaches academics and cultural identity to their youth with the hope of fostering the next generation of cultural defenders who to protect the legacy left by their ancestors.



ON THE STREETS

THURSDAY 20 JULY / 15.00 – 15.15

**Director: Mycuoung Le, Vietnam
2013 / 16 minutes**

This film is about the lives of young men and women who earn their lives by selling sugar, singing and dancing on Ho Chi Minh city's busy streets. The film offers a window into the life of Dien whose job is just not a way to earn a living. It also comes from his love for singing, where the streets are his only stage. Bi and Ti a couple who fell in love with each other, live together like husband and wife and stick to this job just to earn money. The film also follows children who were born and grew up as street children. On the streets leaves the viewer with a question: when will it come to an end?



THE BURMESE IN THAILAND

THURSDAY 20 JULY / 15.20 – 15.35

**Director: Kantayalongote Suree, Thailand
2013 / 13 minutes**

Portraying the lives of Burmese workers in Thailand this documentary shows how they work and their living conditions. It focuses on a Burmese worker "Jet" who works in a "Tom Luead Moo" shop and spends 20 hours a day managing all the daily tasks.

FILM SCREENINGS / SYNOPSES**CONSIDER****THURSDAY 20 JULY / 15.40 – 16.05****Director: Panu Saeng-Xuto, Thailand
2013 / 25 minutes**

Tay is a teenage “kathoei” (ladyboy) a member of the relatively well-tolerated transgender group. Kathoei take on traditional female roles, and are sometimes described as a third sex. This documentary follows Tay and observes the acceptance of his orientation at his Christian school Saint Joseph Mueang-Ake. The documentary peers into the daily life of Tay, and those around them to paint a complex observation of how an individual's gender is articulated in Thai society.

**LIVES UNDER THE RED LIGHTS****FRIDAY 21 JULY / 9.20 – 9.35****Director: Hem Vanna, Cambodia
2013 / 13 minutes**

Under the red light focuses on the lives of four persons who work as sex workers in Phnom Penh. Most of them were kicked out from their families and came to live in Phnom Penh and ended up working in the sex industry. This film sensitively deals with the daily discrimination they face. Sex work places them at risk to gang rape, sex violence, drugs and arrests by police. This documentary offers a window onto the lives of these sex workers in modern day Cambodian society.

**THE LAST GENERATION****FRIDAY 21 JULY / 9.40 – 9.55****Directors: Darang Melati Z / Riza Andrian, Indonesia
2014 / 13 minutes**

This documentary explores the decline of fish resources on a coastal village in Greater Aceh Region, Indonesia. With detailed interviews with fisherman in the village, it introduces the human effects of illegal fishing on both communities and people. The documentary is framed in the context of the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake which devastated the coast, destroyed vast tracts of coral, and led to a decrease in fish stocks. Through interviews with fishermen who lost limbs through fish bombing, this documentary portrays the harsh reality and anxieties some fishing communities presently face in the region.

**MORE THAN A TREE****FRIDAY 21 JULY / 10.00 – 10.15****Director: Philipp Danao/ Khin, Myanmar
2014 / 16 minutes**

Every year, coastal communities in Rakhine State on the northwestern coast of Myanmar are exposed to the threat of floods and cyclones. Between 2008 and 2011, Malteser International and Mangrove Service Network (MSN) helped two villages in Sittwe Township to plant and grow over 10,000 mangroves thus safeguarding the lives of more than 5,000 people. Punctuated by striking images of the coastal landscape, this short documentary describes the critical importance of mangrove restoration in reducing disaster risks aggravated by the changing environment. It also sensitively shows how in particular, the women of these villages have become an integral part of an eco-vision to protect and help their communities.



**MY GRANDPA'S ROUTE HAS BEEN FOREVER
BLOCKED**

FRIDAY 21 JULY / 10.20 – 10.35

**Director: Supaparinya Sutthirat, Thailand
2014 / 15 minutes**

In this documentary, Supaparinya Sutthirat takes us on a journey down the Ping River, a waterway that has historically been used for trade. It reflects upon the evolving river-scape comparing the river of now to that of the one that existed during her Grandfather's time. In 1958, the Bhumibol Dam was built, effectively changing the landscape. Sutthirat takes the viewer on a journey down the present Ping River in an attempt to understand the past and observe issues in the present. Using an innovative split screen technique, the video invites viewers to reflect on small weirs, floodgates, and dikes lying sequentially from the source of the river to the Bhumibol Dam while taking the viewer on a boat cruise to contextualize the impact of changes on the river.



ECHOES FROM THE HILL

FRIDAY 21 JULY / 12.05 – 12.25

**Directors: Jirudikal Prasonchoom
& Pasit TандаeChanurat, Thailand
2014 / 19 minutes**

This documentary focuses on Karen villagers in the Northwest of Thailand, the "Pgaz K'Nyau" (Simple humans), who live in a village without running electricity far from highways. It voices and reveals their way of life, the nature around them, how they think, and how they believe and protect it. Jirudikal Prasonchoom sensitively captures their sacred beliefs and worldview and how they maintain harmony and preserve nature. The documentary juxtaposes their lives with the Thai government's recent attempt to make their forest a national park and build a dam on their land. This documentary explores the tensions that exist between people's relations to the nature around them and the way government attempts to justify development in the region.



SILENCE OF THE SUMMER

FRIDAY 21 JULY / 11.35 – 12.00

**Director: Mai Dinh Khoi, Vietnam
2014 / 25 minutes**

This documentary introduces different stories on the relationship between human society and the environment in Vietnam. During the summer in the parks of the city, people cannot hear the sound of cicadas and other insects even though it is their mating season. In the countryside, near the rice fields, children cannot hear the vital sounds of nature, as the fields are now sprayed with pesticides and herbicides. In the laboratory, an entomologist collects specimens of cicadas, crickets and other insects, fearing that they might disappear in the near future. This documentary is a poignant reflection on the changes taking place in the Vietnamese landscape.



A POLITICAL LIFE

FRIDAY 21 JULY / 12.30 – 12.50

**Director: Soe Arkar Htun, Myanmar
2015 / 20 minutes**

U Thein Soe dedicated the best years of his life to working as Aung San Suu Kyi's bodyguard. To please his long-suffering wife and family he has now bowed out of politics – but still can't help giving up his time to provide local people with valuable legal advice.

FILM SCREENINGS / SYNOPSES



MY LEG

FRIDAY 21 JULY / 12.55 – 13.15

**Director: Khon Soe Moe Aung, Myanmar
2015 / 19 minutes**

For over 60 years in Kayah State, Myanmar, different ethnic armed groups have been fighting the Burmese Army in a war for freedom and independence. A group of war veterans have opened an artificial leg workshop constructing a hundred legs per year for fellow veterans with the same stroke of fate – leaving ethnic differences behind.



PATH OF ANNA: YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW 2

FRIDAY 21 JULY / 14.20 – 15.30

**Director: Naoi Riyo, Japan/Thailand
2013 / 70 minutes**

Infected with HIV by her ex-husband, Anna meets Pom and marries him. The couple sell eggs at the morning market everyday to earn their living. During the daytime, Anna takes care of HIV-positive orphans in their village together with Pom. With mutual moral support from and to other HIV-positive friends and family, Anna tries to live out every precious second never giving up on her hope for tomorrow. This is a sensitive documentary about the life of a mother and a daughter portraying the trials of a mother and her relations with people around her.



CROSSING THE LINE (ICAS 10 SUBMISSION)

FRIDAY 21 JULY / 16.30 – 18.15

**Director: Anita Barar, Australia
2007 / 75 minutes**

In 1947 when British gave freedom to India, a line drawn on the map of India gave birth to a new nation - Pakistan. The division resulted mass killing and forced migration of tens of thousands. The generation old bonds disappeared and brutal attacks against humanity were witnessed. The feature documentary film 'Crossing the Line' documents the cultural memories of this partition and the human factor of borders and boundaries, politics of divide and the notion of identity by a few seniors living in Sydney of both the countries who crossed the border. It is a film about seniors' longing for their roots, their nightmares, their friendship, their quest and about a tragedy, which humanity had gone through.



DEDICATED TO GRANDPA DIEU

SATURDAY 22 JULY / 9.20 – 9.45

**Director: Hien Anh Nguyen, Vietnam
2015 / 25 minutes**

This documentary depicts the everyday life of an elderly person, Mr. Dieu, in busy Hanoi city. He leads a simple life in a modest house with a blue wooden door on a small corner of a busy street. The documentary focuses on Mr. Dieu – a man with strong ambition – who used to work as a freelance interpreter at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the mid-1960s. He works very hard, translating books he likes, but he has never tried to publish any of them himself.



MICHAEL'S

SATURDAY 22 JULY / 9.50 – 10.20

**Director: Kunnawut Boonreak, Thailand
2015 / 30 minutes**

Among the different economic and religious networks that exist in Mae Sot district, a city along Thailand-Burma border, 'Michael Rofik' and 'Michael Mohamad' Yameen two Rohingyas, have been struggling for their livelihood while trying to maintain their Rohingya identity. The two Michaels come from the same ethnic group but their economic status and background differ. This story takes place in Mae Sot and Umpiem Refugee camps. Although both migrated a long time ago, they do not belong to either Thailand or Myanmar.



SWEET MEDICINE (ICAS 10 SUBMISSION)

SATURDAY 22 JULY / 11.35 – 13.15

**Directors: Juul Op den Kamp, the Netherlands
and Ralph Pulanco, the Philippines
2017 / 75 minutes**

"Sweet Medicine" follows Leo, who is a dealer of First Vita Plus, a multilevel marketing company in the Philippines that sells herbal food supplements. The documentary shows how in Palawan, where one third of families live in poverty and cannot feed their children well, Leo tries to convince people to buy First Vita Plus to treat and prevent all kinds of health conditions. Charismatic officials of the company suggest that Leo can become a millionaire if he works hard in recruiting new dealers and selling the product, while the government warns that the food supplements have no proven therapeutic value, and that they lack facilities to guarantee quality of these products. The film is a product of the ChemicalYouth project, funded by the European Research Council, and led by Anita Hardon. The film was made with a research team and crew from Palawan.



NYALON

SATURDAY 22 JULY / 10.23 – 11.00

**Director: Ima Puspita Sari, Indonesia
2015 / 37 minutes**

For many years husband and wife, Dini and Kardi, who cut hair in their own respective hair saloon in Wates village, Central Java have many loyal customers who often talk freely about family gossips, local politicians and even national politics. We can see and hear blunt, honest opinions of the customers about the chaotic presidential campaign and its divisive election. At the end of the day it seems like not a bad idea to learn about politics in a hair saloon.



CALALAI IN-BETWEENNESS

SATURDAY 22 JULY / 14.20 – 15.00

**Director: Kiki Febriyanti, Indonesia
2015 / 40 minutes**

A story about the existence of women of South Sulawesi, Indonesia, living in Bugis culture in the midst of a modern world ruled by a binary gender system. For centuries Bugis people have accepted gender diversity as implicitly written in the La Galigo manuscript, where they believe that humans consist of five genders, and one of them is calalai. Who is calalai?

FILM SCREENINGS / SYNOPSES**60 DAYS****SATURDAY 22 JULY / 15.05 – 15.35**

Directors: Htut Ye Kyaw, Sett Paing Aung,
Pyay Maw Thein, Myanmar
2016 / 31 minutes

On November 17, 2014, amidst the protests regarding the national educational law in Myanmar, a 60-day moratorium was announced by the students. This documentary explores the student protest through this interim, an important step in the country's national education reform, including interviews with students who were actually involved.

**MR ZERO****SUNDAY 23 JULY / 9.20 – 9.50**

Director: Nutchā Tantivitayapitak, Thailand
Producer: Chawanrat Rungsangcharoenthip, Thailand
2016 / 30 minutes

A documentary that deals with the story of Bundit Aneeya, a senior translator and writer whose provocative writings led him to be accused of mental instability. Having been charged four times under article 112 (lèse-majesté in Thailand), this documentary offers a sensitive portrayal of his works and personal history.

**WOMEN OF THE FOREST****SATURDAY 22 JULY / 15.40 – 15.55**

Director: Inshallah Montero, Malaysia/Philippines
2016 / 15 minutes

In Sarawak, Malaysia, Borneo's rainforest is fading into corporate land. This documentary spotlights the women of the Kayan and Penan tribes, who struggle from both manmade destruction and effects of climate change. It sensitively explores how reproductive health and rights should be included in climate change policies, and, in the form of a dialogue, seeks to protect the rights of these women who live in the Bornean forests.

**VEIN****SUNDAY 23 JULY / 10.00 – 10.30**

Directors: Htet Aung San, Phyo Zayar Kyaw,
KO JET, Myanmar
2016 / 30 minutes

A relatively unspoken part of life in Myanmar, this documentary sheds light on the mining sites and dangers that surround laborers as they search for jade. This documentary offers an stark portrayal of mining in Myanmar and the everyday risks that miners face trying to make a living.



I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ABC

SUNDAY 23 JULY / 11.35 – 12.00

**Directors: Sok Chanrado/Norm Phanith, Cambodia
(Bophana Audiovisual Resource Center)**

2016 / 23 minutes

Ron Dara, is a 33-year old homeless man who lives on the streets close to the White Building in Phnom Penh along with his son. Dara earns a meagre income from sewing old shoes and collecting garbage to be able to support his daily life and his son's schooling. This documentary shows the intimate relation between a father and his son and how education is crucial to cut down poverty and improve financial circumstances.



FRAGILE

SUNDAY 23 JULY / 12.40 – 12.50

**Director: Bebbra Mailin, Malaysia
2015 / 11 minutes**

This documentary follows the life of an Indonesian family living in Sabah, Malaysia. It is told from the perspective of a child, Nirwana (12 years old), who holds a big dream to become a singer despite family struggles.



VIRAL! SIAL!

SUNDAY 23 JULY / 12.05 – 12.35

Director: David Buri, Malaysia

2016 / 29 minutes

Edry Faizal hosts BFM Kupas, a satirical Malaysian current affairs youtube series. When Edry volunteers in a state recently hit by devastating floods, Aisyah Tajuddin steps into his shoes to host the show. Things take a dramatic turn when the episode goes disastrously viral and Aisyah receives rape and death threats. This documentary follows Edry as he goes on a journey to uncover what went wrong.