Reimagining Creative Cities in Twenty-First Century in Asia
14 August 2021, 13.00-15.00 (Bangkok Time)

First panel discussions: Book Launch Re-imagining Creative Cities in Twenty-First Century Asia

About the book launch

Dr. Xin Gu, Dr. Michael Kho Lim and Prof. Justin O’Connor are thrilled to invite you to the book launch of Re-imagining Creative Cities in Twenty-First Century Asia. This book project is a shared research interest for ‘Creative Cities’ in Asia. Along with emerging scholars from the Asia Pacific, the team have managed to create together a different narrative of creative cities with publisher Palgrave Macmillan, and would love for you to join them to celebrate their journey of exciting research, deep reflection and insightful conversations.

This will be a fabulous session of knowledge sharing as part of Thailand’s International Creative Economy Week, co-sponsored by UNESCO Bangkok Office and CEA. The book launch event will focus on the context of Thai creative cities, the process they went through, the challenges they faced, how these were overcome, and the benefits they gained from becoming a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. The forum/panel discussion will also look at (new) policy initiatives that can be considered or reconsidered, as these creative cities move forward post-pandemic.

About the book

This book responds to the lack of Asian representation in creative cities literature. It aims to use the creative cities paradigm as part of a wider process involving first, a rapid de-industrialisation in Asia that has left a void for new development models, resulting in a popular uptake of cultural economies in Asian cities; and second, the congruence and conflicts of traditional and modern cultural values leading to a necessary re-interpretation and re-imagination of cities as places for cultural production and cultural consumption. Focusing on the ‘Asian century’, it seeks to recognise and highlight the rapid rise of these cities and how they have stepped up to the challenge of transforming and regenerating themselves. The book aims to re-define what it means to be an Asian creative city and generate more dialogue and new debate around different urban issues.
About the authors

**Dr. Xin Gu** is part of the UNESCO ‘Expert Facility’, supporting the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Diversity (2019-2022). She co-developed and was the director of the Master of Cultural and Creative Industries (MCCI) at Monash University in Australia. She has published widely on urban creative clusters and agglomerations, cultural work, creative entrepreneurship, cultural and creative industries policy, media cities, maker culture and cyberculture in China.

**Dr. Michael Kho Lim’s** career trajectory lies at the intersection of industry and academia. He has extensive experience in the management of cultural and creative industries, assuming various roles, such as being a film producer, executive director, general manager, and holding creative and managerial positions in content writing and editing for different publications. He has produced several short and full-length feature films, documentaries, and music videos. He also has several years of university teaching experience in the Philippines and Australia, handling modules on screen production, creative entrepreneurship, cultural economy and sustainable development, among others.

Dr. Phitchakan Chuangchai [p.chuangchai@gmail.com](mailto:p.chuangchai@gmail.com)
Lecturer of Management of Cultural Heritage and Creative Industries
College of Innovation, Thammasat University

The second panel discussion is titled “Re-imagining Creative Cities through the eyes and hands of the new generation in Thailand”

The discussion will explore what the young creative practitioners in Thailand are doing in their cities using creativity at the heart of the development.

The concept of Creative Cities in Thailand has received a lot of attention following the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) advocacy and support from the Royal Government of Thailand. There are four cities in Thailand successfully joined the UCCN namely Chiang Mai (crafts and folk art), Phuket (gastronomy), Sukhothai (crafts and folk art) and Bangkok (design), while there are lively creative professional communities in many other secondary cities. These creative communities have been growing significantly as side benefits from the booming of the tourism industry in those cities. In these recent years, all stakeholders including government agencies, private sector and civil society organizations have been enthusiastic to think of a second industry in their provinces using creativity, esp. in times of covid-19 pandemic when the tourism has been hit hard.

The discussion collides young creative practitioners from Ubonratchatnani, Burrirum, Sakonnakorn, Bangkok, and Chiang Mai, and a young strategy developer from Ministry of Culture and a Creative Cities policy maker from the CEA to share experiences and re-imagine putting creativity in the heart of their city development.

Varong Boonari
Isarn fusion music driver, and re-imaging Mor Lum movement, founder of Ratchabutre Studio, Ubonratchathani Province

Praj Niyomka (Mann)
Founder of Mann Craft, and Creative Crafts Centre a centre that uses creativity to build upon local wisdom. A co-founder of SakonHed, the biggest contemporary crafts festival of Esarn
Yossapon Boonsom (Yos)
Landscape architect, Co-founder of Shma company, WePark and City Cracker platform to provide creative and sustainable solutions of cities. He is passionate about using design to turn unused public space into creative community space.

Pariyapa Amornwanichsarn
Division of Strategy and Planning, Ministry of Culture

Chidchanok Chidchob
Director of Product design for Burrirum United and an artist activist who paints the whole city and uses creativity in addressing social issues and suggesting changes.
**Prawporn Sukasatien**
Co-founder of Jaibaan Studio, a designer with a passion to design together with nature, people and environment in Chiang Mai

---

**Karin Kangwankitti**
Knowledge Management Senior Officer, Creative Cities Unit, Creative Economy Agency (CEA)

---

For more information, please contact:
Xin.gu@monash.edu
michaelkholim@gmail.com
k.chayamarit@unesco.org