

Workshop RULE-Rennes University, 18 May 2022

Institut français du Cambodge

*International trade, social and environmental policies
in Southeast Asia*



International trade, social and environmental policies in Southeast Asia

8:45-9:00 Opening

Thomas Vallée, Cooperation Attaché, French Embassy to Cambodia

Laurent Mesmann, Special Advisor to the Rector, Royal University of Law and Economics – RULE

9:00-9:15 Introduction

Pascale Turquet, Associate Professor, Rennes 2 University

Social protection and environmental policies in Southeast Asia

9:15-9:30 Chea Bullika, Director of Department, General Secretariat for the National Social Protection Council, Cambodia

Social Protection in Cambodia

9:30-9:45 Hiromi Takahashi-Romanelli, Associate Professor, Rennes 2 University

Work-family conflict among female employees and social protection:

The example of Japan

9:45-10:15 Q&A

International trade, social and environmental policies in Southeast Asia

10:30-10:45 Marc Lautier, Professor, Rennes 2 University

International competitiveness and labor standards in the Textile industry

10:45-11:00 Ngo Natharoun, Director, EnergyLab

Cambodia energy and climate change

11:00-11:15 Chhinh Nyda, Lecturer, Royal University of Phnom Penh - RUPP

Drought Risk in Cambodia

11:15-12:00 **Q&A**

12:15 **Lunch – Le Bistrot de l’Institut français**

International trade, social and environmental policies in Southeast Asia

The ASINEGALE project, launched in 2019:

- Varying economic growth patterns in East Asia
- Rising inequalities: income but also access to various critical services, from food, housing, education, health to digital services; inequalities between rural and urban areas, etc. However, social policy/protection is not very developed.
- Inequalities are key challenges which might jeopardise both growth sustainability and social stability.

What role for social policy/innovation in such a context?

International trade, social and environmental policies in Southeast Asia

More recently:

- Emerging Asian economies have been particularly affected by the pandemic-induced global recession, putting key growth drivers under strain and narrowing fiscal space;
- The crisis has also increased the need to strengthen the capacity of the health system and to implement social policy measures against the rise of poverty and social inequalities;
- COVID-19 has accelerated climate and social awareness and transition to an environmentally sustainable growth model is a critical issue.

Our workshop will aim at analyzing the links between international competitiveness and labor standards, the role of social and environmental policies and their contribution to sustainable development in the region.

Social protection and environmental policies in Southeast Asia

Alexandre Berthe and Pascale Turquet, Univ. Rennes

A research conducted for the French Development Agency (AFD) in 2021

What link between social protection and environment in Southeast Asia?

Increasing interest in comparative and international social policy studies. Two main approaches to social protection in connection with environmental issues:

- Growth-oriented (protection against short-run shocks/vulnerability understood only in terms of income, consumption and asset), WB
- Rights-based/transformational function (tackling inequalities and addressing the issue of structural vulnerability to poverty), Devereux, Sabates-Wheeler (Institute of Development Studies, IDS) & ILO

Social protection and environmental policies in Southeast Asia

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What link between social protection and environment in Southeast Asia?

Despite growing interest, social protection systems remain quite underdeveloped in Southeast Asia:

- Most social spending is through social insurance schemes that only cover formal workers;
- Healthcare remains largely funded by user-fees, with means-tested support for the poor;
- Employment support is not widespread.

Social protection and environmental policies in Southeast Asia

Public social expenditure (%GDP)/effective coverage (% pop), 2020 or last available year

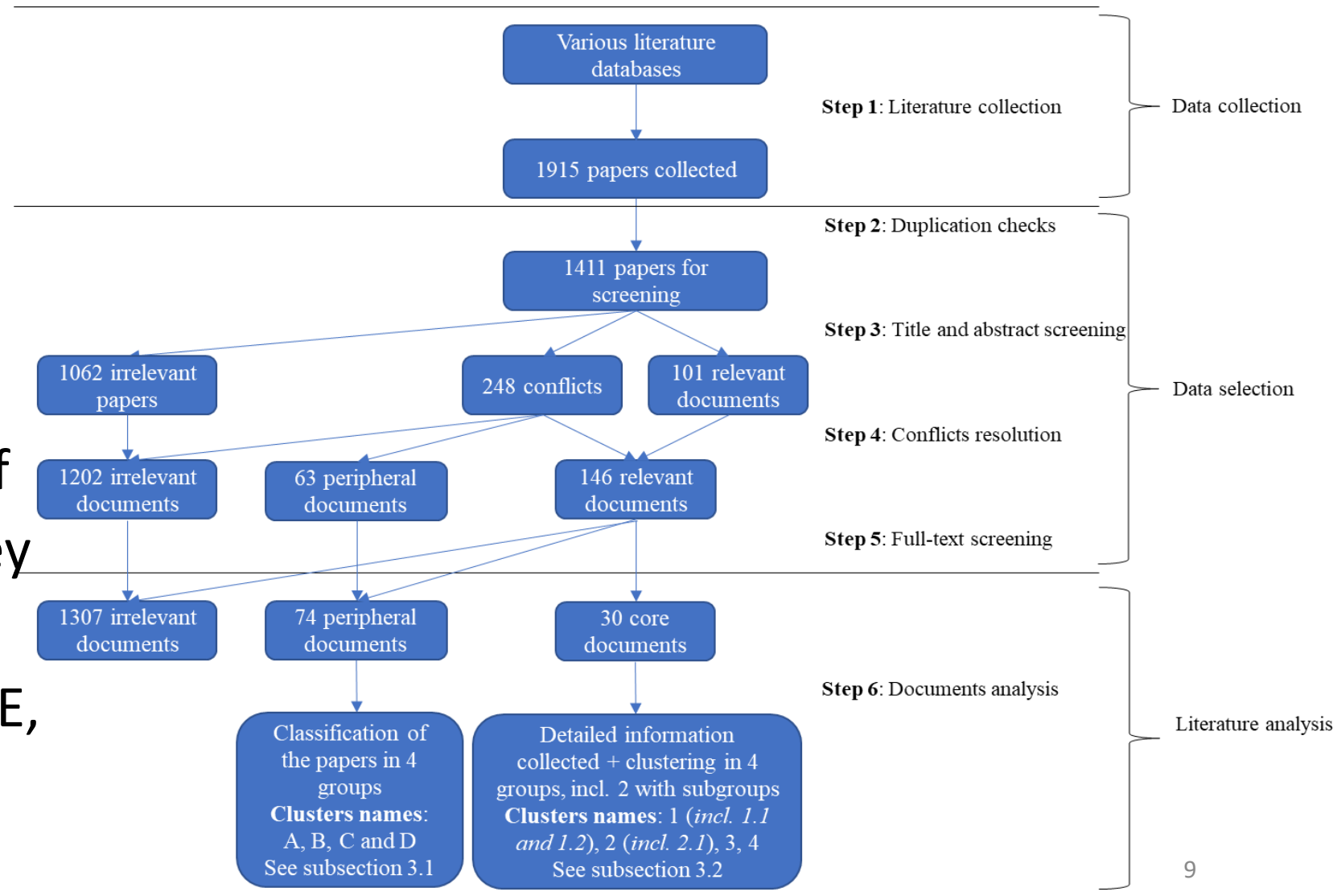
		Cambodia	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Thailand	Vietnam
Public social protection expenditure by function	All functions excluding healthcare (% GDP)	0.9	0.7	0.8	3	4.3
	Healthcare (% GDP)	1.4	0.9	0.7	2.9	2.7
Effective coverage, % pop	% pop affiliated to a social pr. scheme excluding healthcare	6.2	12.1	6.3	68	38.8
	% population affiliated to a social health protection scheme	31.4	93.6	2.5	98	90.2

Source: ILO Database

Social protection and environmental policies in Southeast Asia

Public social expenditure (%GDP)/effective coverage (% pop)

A systematic review of the academic and institutional literature examining the links between social protection and environmental issues (search equations on Web of Science, Science Direct, Wiley Online, Taylor and Francis, ProQuest, SpringerLink, SAGE, and JSTOR)



Social protection and environmental policies in Southeast Asia

Public social expenditure (%GDP)/effective coverage (% pop)

Three main clusters (on the basis of a reading grid: 11 pieces of information per article + identification key):

- Payment for environmental preservation
- Social protection as a mechanism to reduce poor people's vulnerability
- Social and environmental policies within the same general scheme but separated

Focus on:

- climate change and disaster management (social protection often used in the aftermath of a disaster)
- the (rural) poor and vulnerable (assistance)/no link with the existing schemes and their extension/no link between health coverage and environment.
- S.P. as a tool/no big picture (welfare model...)/no reflection about the context of implementation (existing schemes) but differences according to the countries

Social protection and environmental policies in Southeast Asia

Public social expenditure (%GDP)/effective coverage (% pop)

- A question for future research: *what could be the future of a social protection system including environmental issues in SEA countries?*
- This leads to subquestions:
 - What perimeter for social protection?
 - Tools: under what conditions could agriculture/aquaculture/fishery measures could be seen as social protection measures...?
 - Actors: what role for the private sector...?
 - What beneficiaries?
 - What scope for solidarity? Moving from ad-hoc solutions toward more inclusive regimes? Need to address the root causes of vulnerability and risks
 - How to take into account the wide range of environmental issues (climate change, floods, local pollution and waste management)?
 - Are environmental issues a threat or an opportunity for the development of social protection in the region?