Call for Papers - Ausgabe 1 | 2027

Limits of climate policy in Southeast Asia

This issue of *südostasien* focuses on the policies, initiatives, and communities dealing with the impacts of climate change and climate extremes (including those driven by El Niño, La Niña, and the Indian Ocean Dipole, IOD), while confronting the limitations of climate policy. The effects of climate change are being felt worldwide through heatwaves, heavy rainfalls, floods, and droughts, though not to the same extent everywhere.

In recent years, floods and dry spells have hit Southeast Asia in different ways. Many people have lost their homes to floods. Children and elderly fall ill from polluted air and suffer from extreme heat. Animals and plants die from lack of water. Many communities lack the resources to adapt and are unprepared for what lies ahead. In 2027, the strengthening El Niño is expected to bring hotter and drier conditions and a higher risk of fires and haze to parts of the region. Severe water shortages, crop failures, fires, food shortages, and health problems are predicted.

Since 1995, government and civil society representatives have met annually at the COP (UN Climate Change Conference) to negotiate the impacts of climate change and ways to mitigate it. The industrialized nations of the Global North are historically responsible for causing climate change and remain among the world's largest CO_2 emitters today. Yet, their climate policies and compensation efforts remain inadequate. According to the Climate Adaptation Finance Index (CAFI), countries such as Myanmar and the Philippines receive far less funding for climate adaptation than their level of risk would warrant. Furthermore, the use of climate-related funds within these nations is also a matter of controversy. Politicians in Southeast Asia have enriched themselves using financial resources originally intended to protect the wider population; the scandal surrounding flood-control projects in the Philippines and the alleged misuse of emergency funds for forest and land fires in Indonesia illustrate how vulnerable disaster relief is to corruption.

Here are some questions that potential articles could explore and address:

- Who (individuals, social groups, civil society organizations, etc.) is taking action on climate change?
- How are the general public, civil society, and policymakers in Southeast Asian countries dealing with the impacts of climate change?
- To what extent does the population support progressive climate policies? How important is climate change as an issue for protests, initiatives, or voting decisions?
- Which specific aspects of climate change impacts and climate policy (e.g., energy, food, mobility, land use/forestry) are being addressed, and which are not?
- What forces and factors stand in the way of progressive climate policies in Southeast Asia?
- How have governments responded to the climate crisis so far? What approaches to climate policy exist, and which measures are being implemented?
- What connections and networks exist between climate movements in Southeast Asia and those in other parts of the world? What role do the global networks of the Southeast Asian diaspora play?
- How has El Niño affected agriculture, water supply, health, and food security in the past?

- How are communities, civil society, and policymakers in Southeast Asian countries preparing for the anticipated impacts of climate extremes?

We welcome articles in various formats: portraits of different actors, commentaries, reports, analyses, interviews, photo stories and reviews of films, music, or books. We are looking for articles that deal with individual aspects mentioned above (or individual countries in Southeast Asia) as well as overview articles on structural issues and contexts.

Please send us a short proposal (max. 1,000 characters) to klima@suedostasien.net by December 20, 2026 at the latest. We look forward to your ideas!

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