

## Building resilience through translocality

*Climate change, migration and social resilience of rural communities in Thailand (TransRe)*

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| <b>Organization(s)</b> | TransRe University of Bonn, Raks Thai Foundation                               |
| <b>Donor</b>           | German Federal Ministry of Education and Research                              |
| <b>Budget</b>          | Phase I: 96,362€; Phase II: 66,612€  |
| <b>Location</b>        | Chiang Mai Province  |
| <b>Duration</b>        | Phase I: October 2013 – September 2017; Phase II: October 2017 – December 2018 |

*Climate change and migration are drawing increasing interest from researchers, policy makers, as well as from the general public. Much attention has been given to the role of climate change as a factor to increase migration, and to the potential conflicts and humanitarian crises that may result.*

### Background

The TransRe project offers an innovative approach at how to look at the nexus between migration and climate change. It is a research-based project which started in 2013 through the support of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The project is led by a team of researchers from the University of Bonn and the University of Vienna. Raks Thai has collaborated with the research team to bridge the gap between research and implementation in Thailand.

The starting point is that regardless of the accuracy of the projections of future environmental changes, migration is already occurring and will continue to be a major dynamic of global change. On the one hand, migration is intensifying translocal connectedness, including flows of knowledge and resources. On the other hand, the ability of households and communities to respond to climatic risks and sustain their livelihoods and well-being – that is, their social resilience – has the potential to be strengthened.

### Objective

The focus of the TransRe project is on channeling research for increasing resilience of rural communities that are vulnerable to climate-related risk. The objective is to understand the relations between migration, translocality and social resilience to climate change. The TransRe is a research-based project, whose design follows place-based as well as multi-sited fieldwork approaches and seeks to generate empirical evidence based on case studies carried out in Thailand and in the places of destination of migrants. The research focuses on the following areas:

- Risks, Livelihoods & Vulnerability
- Social Practices of Translocality
- Social Networks & Translocal Resilience
- Governing Translocal Social Resilience

### The role of Raks Thai

The TransRe project has been representing for Raks Thai an opportunity to collaborate with a committed team of the academic sphere and to bridge the gap between research and implementation on migration and climate change. Throughout the project, we have supported the TransRe Team to identify research areas and to build connections with local communities, and to implement pilot projects aimed at resilience-building in translocal communities.

### Highlights and outcomes of the project include

- An open-access [Guidebook for Integrating Migration and Translocality into Community-Based Adaptation](#), which has been developed through a continuous process of improvement by working with the local communities. The Guidebook looks at improving the awareness and understanding of migration potentials and risks and it can be a valuable resource in bringing the migration for adaptation concept into (trans-)local community development work.
- A series of events which were led throughout the project. Raks Thai participated and/or contributed to organize the following ones:
  - o A Summer School on “Does Climate Change Move You?” held in June 2015 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The objective was to improve the understanding climate impacts on migration and the concepts, methods, and policies behind them.
  - o A conference on “Rural Futures in South East Asia” held in August 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference aimed at creating a forum for scientific exchange on the nexus of environment, migration, and development (including adaptation and resilience), along with the presentation of findings from the TransRe project.
  - o The closing conference for the TransRe project “Adaptation in Motion - Trans|Re Closing Conference” held in September 2018 in Bonn, Germany.

**For more information, please visit the TransRe Project official page at <http://www.transre.org/>**

**Youtube Channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtyy76v5h\\_1sGzFKTpX9ESA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtyy76v5h_1sGzFKTpX9ESA)**

**For more information, feel free to contact us at [environment@raksthai.org](mailto:environment@raksthai.org)**