Changing aid in Southeast Asia: peer-to-peer, private and Inter-Asian Approaches

This panel explore emerging forms of development assistance and humanitarian aid in Southeast Asia. We are interested in flows of value, expertise and donated goods that make up 'South-South humanitarianism' (see Pacitto and Fiddian-Qasmiyeh 2013). There is a new direction of travel for development, marked by the shift from North-to-South models of development assistance towards new roles for development actors in the global South (Gray and Gills 2015). Whether these actors are nation states like India and China, regional NGOs, hometown associations or grassroots groups, they are influential aid providers. In Southeast Asia, it is local and peer-to-peer assistance that has figured most strongly in this shift (South 2012).

We invite papers that examine how these new directions and modes of interventions become visible where national line agencies - or the traditional international non-state actors of aid - are less present. Contributions could explore the following questions: How does 'citizen aid' at various scales play out after a disaster? How do regional NGOs move in to fill gaps left by foreign donors whose interests have shifted? Are new, longer-term interventions propelled by invocations of inter-ASEAN or Asian similarity and common regional citizenship? What difference do these new forms of aid make for those that receive their support? For their employees or donors? Do these initiatives have distinctive modes of operation or ethics? Finally, to what extent have these new forms of aid managed to address the problematic power differentials that lie at the heart of the traditional North-South aid paradigms?

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