Human Security and Climate Change in Southeast Asia: Managing Risk and Resilience. Lorraine Elliott and Mely Caballero-Anthony (eds.), Routledge, 2013, 206 pp. ISBN 978-041-568-489-7.

On 12 December 2015, the world watched as the Paris Agreement came into existence at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference. What this 21st annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) supposedly hoped to achieve is to bring all world leaders to an agreement to halt global warming and address all their countries' vulnerability to climate change. This development was welcomed in several quarters. Some noted, however, that while it is one of the first agreements since the Kyoto Protocol "to commit all countries to cut carbon emissions," the strength of the agreement is still undercut by its being "partly legally binding and partly voluntary" (Boettcher 2015).

Such aspirations, nevertheless, are normally easier put to paper than to be actualized. The material conditions surrounding disaster rehabilitation and risk reduction are affected not only by the resources that could be marshalled (both by the state and the residents of these affected places), but also, more importantly, by the relative stability of institutions and social dynamics in the affected places. It is in this context that Lorraine Eliott and Mely Caballero-Anthony's edited volume contributes to emerging policy debates.

Preparing for the aftershocks of climate change can only be properly addressed by framing the situation (and thus, the policy responses) not just as a matter of addressing climate change *per se.* As the authors in the volume demonstrate, doing so requires looking at 1) the tangible and long-term effects of climage change on human security; 2) the integrity of the affected countries' sovereignties; 3) the effect of climate change on the distribution of resources, especially when responses to disaster casualties and damages take on a crossborder, transnational nature; and 4) ways through which the people affected by disasters and climate change can cease to be mere victims and become active stakeholders in the rehabilitation process.

The essays in this volume, as the editors claim, bring "both an empirical and conceptual dimension to the objective of expanding our understanding of climate change, adaptation, human security and social resilience as non-traditional security challenges in Southeast Asia" (13). It is perhaps because of this that the book opens, immediately after its introduction, with a discussion of the economic impacts of climate change in Southeast Asia (chapter two). The authors, Juzhong Zhuang, Suphachol Suphachalasai and Jindra Nuella Sanson, condensed their findings from their Asian Development Bank Report *The Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia: A Regional Review* (2009). While the book itself is well-served in incorporating such a report to contextualize the case studies of the present volume, the limited updates made by the authors regarding their findings leave much to be desired.

The strength of the book, however, lies in its well-crafted case studies. When the people affected by disasters are portrayed (either by news reportage or policy-making) there seems to be a tendency to think of them as primarily victims to be saved or given succor. Devanathan Parthasarahty's contribution to the volume (chapter three), however, would nuance this by suggesting that "people who are actually vulnerable and at risk from climate change adversities would find it very difficult to be reflexive despite the availability of knowledge regarding risk production, since they have to make urgent choices between different kinds of risks, and have no mechanisms to overcome one or more forms of discrimination, inequity or poverty which affect their risk management strategies" (60).

Partharasathy's acknowledgement of government's capacity in addressing this gap is further sustained by Keokam Kraisoraphong's case study in the Lower Mekong Base (LMB) in chapter four, which suggests that "a community-rights-based approach that focuses on securing and sustaining community access to resources offers a viable alternative for the enhancement of communities' resilience and as a result prevents them from growing poorer" (77). When governments and private interests ignore their communities' rights to decide on how their natural resources and occupied land should be utilized, they run the risk of further exposing their areas to climate change vulnerability and governance deficits. Enrique Ibara Gené and Arif Aliadi demonstrates

this vulnerability by describing a project in Aceh that focuses on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (chapter five).

The devastation that Typhoon *Ondoy* (international name "Ketsana") in 2009 and Typhoon *Yolanda* (international name "Haiyan") in 2013 in major parts of the Philippines foregrounded ongoing debates on climate change and disaster policy. With natural disasters—earthquakes and typhoons, among others—steadily becoming annual and normal phenomena in Southeast Asia, social scientists and policy-makers are now compelled to revisit and conduct research that can help prevent and/or mitigate the impacts of such "forces of nature." Considering the massive costs to life, communities, and socioeconomic operations these countries suffer on a massive scale, it would indeed be ideal if the damages disasters cause could be minimized or even prevented.

The book's insistence and commitment towards demonstrating how policy-making regarding climate change should not be primarily left to the upper echelons of state serves its purpose well. Despite its largely technical language, it can be recommended for both climate change advocates as well as relevant government functionaries, especially those who are tasked with harmonizing human security priorities with emerging community vulnerabilities. With emerging cases of land conflict coinciding with the onslaught of disasters (as witnessed in the aftermath of the land-grabbing incidents in Sicogon, Iloilo, as well as the municipality of Casiguran in Aurora province, and many more cases in the region), the recommendations and arguments by the book call on climate change policy-makerse to actually democratize and incorporate long-neglected grassroots demands.

Reference

1   Boettcher, Daniel. 2015. "COP21 climate change summit reaches deal in Paris."*BBC News Online,* 13 December. www.bbc.com/news/science-environment -35084374+&cd=9&hl=fil&ct=clnk. Accessed 12 February 2016.

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