

CURLS 2016, 10 – 24 July – academic & civil society dialogue at **Chulalongkorn University** – field studies at Prachuabkhirikan and Chantaburi –exchange of experiences at Wongsanit Ashram – Saturday 23 July: **Right Livelihood lectures, World Café and CURLS theatre improvisation** at Chula Faculty of Arts.



Right Livelihood Award laureates from left to right: Sulak Sivaraksa, Helena Norberg Hodge, Walden Bello and Kartini Samon for GRAIN.

The COMMONS, COMPASSION AND COMMUNITIES

Sunday 10 July

Welcome Dinner at Chula Narumitr.

Monday 11 July

Sulak Sivaraksa on Right Livelihood and panel discussion on ‘the commons’ chaired by **Surat Horachaikul** at MAIDS.

Tuesday 12 July

Video interview with **Helena Norberg Hodge**; **Shalmali Guttal**, Focus on the Global South, on the recent **Sombath Somphone Symposium** "Humanity and Nature: Traditional, Cultural and Alternative Perspectives".

Saturday 23 July

Right Livelihood Lectures

at Chula Faculty of Arts, new building, 3rd Floor

- by **Walden Bello**, Philippines, on “ the new commons and why land reform fails”.
- *CURLS theater improvisation* with **Alok Ulfat**.
- **Kartini Samon**, Indonesia, will present the **GRAIN – vision** on land, seeds & consumer activism and she will conduct a *World Café*.
- **Cocktail dinner** and well wishes for the CURLS group on their way to field research in Bhutan, 24 July – 8 August.



Sulak Sivaraksa

Ajarn Sulak, Thailand, is a thought-provoking author, social activist and Buddhist scholar. He will deliver the opening lecture of CURLS 2016 on Monday 11 July, 09.30, at the MAIDS meeting room, Chula

Faculty of Political Science (old building). His lecture is titled *An Economy of Compassion or Competition? Right Livelihood and the Wisdom of Sustainability*. Ajarn Sulak received the Right Livelihood Award in 1995 ... “for his vision, activism and spiritual commitment in the quest for a development process that is rooted in democracy, justice and cultural integrity.”

Ajarn Sulak founded the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) and started Wongsanit Ashram, the Spirit in Education Movement (SEM) and *Seeds for Peace* magazine.



American engaged Buddhists in front of the White House

The “new commons” movement not only supports and empowers indigenous peoples’ and traditional community rights, it promotes a *paradigm shift* in property regimes permeating all aspects of traditional as well as modern life. The public property domain is governed by nation-states: the government/bureaucracy as the sole owner of natural resources including land. This property regime based on territory was conquered by power and violence. It often escapes democratic control and sells out concessions to the corporate sector. Corporations have gained private property rights equal to persons.



Helena Norberg Hodge

Helena Norberg Hodge recently made waves with her film *The Economics of Happiness*. Her first breakthrough during her work in Ladakh came with her book *Ancient Futures*. She received the Right Livelihood Award in 1986 ... "for preserving the traditional culture and values of Ladakh against the onslaught of tourism and development".



Walden Bello

Walden Bello received the Right Livelihood Award in 2003 ... "for his outstanding efforts in educating civil society about the effects of

corporate globalization, and how alternatives to it can be implemented.” After leading Focus on the Global South for many years – Shalmali Guttal is now the Executive Director of Focus – Walden Bello entered the political arena in the Philippines. He resigned from his position as member of Congress because of his disagreements with the Aquino government. One of his points of critique was failed land reform:



Walden Bello in 2008

“By the end of the (land reform) program in 2014, about 700,000 hectares of the best private land in the country remained in the hands of landlords, violence against land reform beneficiaries was common and rural poverty remained stubbornly high.” He wrote in the Green Left Weekly, 25 June 2016.

According to the Right Livelihood Foundation “Walden Bello is one of the leading critics of the current model of economic globalisation, combining the roles of intellectual and activist. As a human rights and peace campaigner, academic, environmentalist and journalist, and through a combination of courage as a dissident, with an

extraordinary breadth of published output and personal charisma, he has made a major contribution to the international case against corporate-driven globalization”.

GRAIN received the Right Livelihood Award in 2011 ...“for their worldwide work to protect the livelihoods and rights of farming communities and to expose the massive purchases of farmland in developing countries by foreign financial interests.”



The global GRAIN Team with Kartini 3rd from left

Kartini Samon is the Asian member of the global GRAIN Team. She will represent GRAIN at the final Right Livelihood presentation on Saturday 23 June. Kartini is from Indonesia while her GRAIN teammates are from all continents. Together they stand for Seed Freedom and a halt to land-grabbing. Kartini used to work for the Youth programme of *La Via Campesina*.

The CURLS 2016 team will accompany participants on field visits to various places in Thailand where “the commons” and communities are alive.



Alok Ulfat is from India and the founder of *Avikal – Initiative for Life*. He will conduct a drama workshop resulting in a dazzling creative closing event on *the Commons, Compassion and Community* together with 'Kartini's World Café'. Make sure you attend this unique performance with CURLS 2016 participants Saturday 23 July 2016, 13.00 (registration) – 18.00 hours including cocktail dinner at Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Arts, Bangkok.

Please contact Kittikhun Pookhongkha, CURLS Coordinator
kittikhb@gmail.com for inquiries and registration.

All the above mentioned activities are public. Most Welcome! And bring your friends.



For information on the Right Livelihood Awards please visit
<http://www.rightlivelihood.org/>

The Chulalongkorn University Right Livelihood Summer School (CURLS) is organized by a partnership of Chula, Royal University of Bhutan (RUB), Right Livelihood College (RLC) and the Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF) established by Sulak Sivaraksa in 1968.