



Funded MSc thesis (and/or internship) opportunities: low-carbon cities and carbon markets in Southeast Asia

The project

Climate change mitigation at city level is one of the newest types of policies to mitigate growing emissions. These so called 'low-carbon cities' (LCC) often involve a combination of various policies and instruments – for example focussed on energy efficiency of buildings and reduction of landfill gas – that contribute to lowering the urban greenhouse gas emissions. Some countries have also started to link them to domestic carbon markets, and in the future perhaps even across other markets or to international markets. This latest policy innovation would present a very interesting link between so-called 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' climate mitigation policies. To date, however, there is very little research on this linkage.

This research project focuses on crediting emissions in Southeast Asian cities and whether and how this can be reconciled with domestic or international carbon markets. This region was selected because of its rapidly growing carbon emissions, while some parts are very vulnerable to climate change impacts, potentially exacerbating poverty in the region. This combination leads to active experimentation with mitigation instruments, including linking carbon markets with Low-Carbon Cities.

Call for MSc students

Your thesis/internship would fit in the context of a research project called 'Linking low-carbon cities to carbon markets: metropolitan solutions for socially inclusive low-carbon development in Southeast Asia'. We are looking for up to three motivated Master students who will be supervised by the Environmental Policy Group (ENP) and/or the Environmental Economics and Natural Resources Group (ENR).

Call for MSc thesis/internship students

Possible topics/directions include:

- Mapping the different types of low-carbon cities and policies in Southeast Asia
- Investigating different funding models for low-carbon cities (including markets)
- The role of different stakeholders (such as governments and civil society organisations) in low-carbon city projects
- The challenges related to measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) of low-carbon cities
- Analysing one or two specific low-carbon cities in Southeast Asia

If selected, (part of) your travel costs and fieldwork expenses (if applicable) are eligible to be covered by the project.

When?

- Negotiable, but preferred start of field work is around January/February 2016.

Who should apply?

- You are fluent in English
- You are happy diving headfirst into a new cultural context
- You possess excellent writing skills
- You are confident and can work independently

Who would you be working with?

- Mattijs Smits (Assistant Professor, ENP) – Mattijs Smits works on energy and climate policy and practice at the Environmental Policy chairgroup. Email: mattijs.smits@wur.nl
- Edwin van der Werf (Assistant Professor, ENR) – Edwin van der Werf works on the economic analysis of climate change and natural resources. Email: edwin.vanderwerf@wur.nl
- Bas van Vliet (Associate Professor, ENP) – Bas van Vliet works on socio-technical environmental change in sanitation, water, waste and energy infrastructure. Email: bas.vanvliet@wur.nl

How to apply?

- Send a short motivation statement, the topic you would like to work on (can be a combination or related topic), your CV and list of courses and grades to mattijs.smits@wur.nl
- There is no formal deadline, and we will consider applications until all slots are filled. The earlier you apply, the higher your chance

If you have any questions or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us.