

## **The Third International Conference on Lao Studies**

**Khon Kaen University, Thailand | July 14-16, 2010**

---

The International Conference on Lao Studies (ICLS) is held once every three years (starting after 2007), rotating among various academic institutions around the world. In 2005, Northern Illinois University became the first host of the First Lao Studies conference, followed by Arizona State University in 2007. The Center for Lao Studies is proud to play an active role in organizing this important conference.

The main purpose of the Lao Studies conferences is to provide an international forum for scholars to present and discuss various aspects of ethno-linguistic groups of Laos, the Lao Isan, cross-border ethnic groups in Laos' neighboring countries, and overseas Lao. The Center for Lao Studies will continue to support the Third International Conference on Lao Studies, which will be held at Khon Kaen University, Thailand on **JULY 14-16, 2010**.

## **Overview**

The Lao PDR today has a population of more than six million people, comprising an amazing complex of ethnolinguistic groups. Moreover, the number of ethnic Lao people outside of the Lao PDR, including the Lao "diaspora" numbers as many as twenty-five million. In recent years there has been an increased interest in Laos and its peoples as subjects of serious discussion by scholars and the interested public alike. Indeed, there has been a flowering of scholarly publications on topics pertaining to Laos in the last several decades and a growing interest cultivated by the international media with its global reach. The First International Conference on Lao Studies at the Northern Illinois University heralded the burgeoning of a growing interest in Lao studies among a new generation of scholars. The subsequent conferences will build on that momentum.

## **Topics**

The Lao Studies conferences feature papers on any topic concerning Lao Studies. Topics include all ethnolinguistic groups of Laos (e.g. Lao-Tai groups, Mon-Khmer groups, Hmong-Mein groups, etc.), the Isan Lao (Northeasterners of Thailand) and other ethnic Lao groups in Thailand (e.g. Lao Song, Phuan, Phu Tai), cross-border ethnic groups in Thailand, Vietnam, China, Burma, and Cambodia (e.g., Akha, Hmong, Khmu, Mien, Lao Phuan, Tai Lue, Tai Dam, Tai Deang, Shan), and overseas Lao (e.g. Lao-American, Hmong-American, Lao-French).

## **Languages**

The languages to be used in the conference will be Lao, English, and French, with translators provided when available and deemed necessary

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Center for Research on Plurality in the Mekong Region, <http://www.plurality.net> Khon Kaen University <http://www.kku.ac.th> and the Center for Lao Studies in San Francisco <http://www.laostudies.org> are pleased to announce the Third International Conference on Lao Studies (ICLS) to be held on **July 14-16, 2010** in Khon Kaen, Thailand.

The main objective of this conference is to promote Lao studies by providing an international forum for scholars to present and discuss various aspects of Lao studies.

### RATIONALE

The Lao PDR and areas of neighboring countries where the Lao people reside are situated in the center of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), encompassing parts of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Lao people play a pivotal role in regional cooperation among the GMS nations. With the rapid changes due to the regional economic cooperation of the GMS and emerging globalization, the Lao people face diverse challenges in social, cultural, economic, and environmental aspects. This conference will provide a forum for scholars who are interested in Lao studies to explore, share, and synthesize experiences and knowledge on Lao culture and society.

## **THEMES**

In the age of globalization and GMS regional cooperation, the Lao people are in transition to a new phase of modernity and are facing an array of new economic possibilities, cultures, and ways of life. These changes can be opportunities as well as challenges for the country.

The Third International Conference on Lao Studies intends to explore diverse impacts of regionalism and globalization on Lao society: how they affect identities, cultures, and social patterns; how the society and people cope with current and emerging challenges; and how the Lao people living in the Lao PDR and other GSM countries contribute to the global and GMS development.

The conference will include invited Lao Studies scholars and researchers from all disciplines and intellectual perspectives to share paper presentations, panel presentations, exhibits, performances, and cultural activities. The following groups are classified as a part of the Third International Conference on Lao Studies:

- All ethnolinguistic groups of Laos (e.g. Mon-Khmer groups, Hmong-Mien groups, Lao-Tai groups);
- Lao Isan and other ethnic Lao groups in Thailand (e.g. Lao Song, Phuan, Phu Tai);
- Ethnic Lao living in Cambodia;
- Cross-border ethnic groups in Thailand, Vietnam, China, Burma, and Cambodia (e.g. Akha, Hmong/Miao, Khmu, Iu

Mien, Lao Phuan, Tai Lue, Tai Dam, Tai Daeng, Shan); and

- Overseas Lao (e.g. Lao American, Lao French).

The following topics related to the aforementioned groups will be included:

- Art, Literature and Music
- Buddhism
- Lao Legacy and heritage
- Ethnic Groups in Modern Economy
- Gender and family Transformation
- Lao people in the GMS regional cooperation
- Lao people in the Regional/Global Economy
- Sustainability and Quality of Life
- Border Trade and culture
- Isan Regionalism
- Modernity and Traditional architecture
- Modern Education
- Changing Livelihood
- Environment and Health
- Research Methodology for Lao Studies
- Language and Linguistics
- Rural Development
- Other topics

## **PROCEDURES and TIMELINES**

1. Please submit abstracts in English before 31 January, 2010
2. To submit abstracts electronically, send preferably a Microsoft word file (document) in an e-mail attachment to [2010laostudies@gmail.com](mailto:2010laostudies@gmail.com)
3. To submit abstracts by mail, send preferably a Microsoft word file (document) on a CD along with printed copy to:

The Third International Conference on Lao Studies  
Center for Research on Plurality in the Mekong Region  
Building HS 03, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Khon Kaen University  
Khon Kaen 40002 THAILAND

Tel/Fax: +66.43.203.215

<http://www.laostudies.org/conferences>

4. The program committee will review abstracts and send an acceptance letter with scheduling information and other instructions for submitting final abstract statements and full versions of papers
5. Abstracts of panels, and individual papers and full versions of conference papers will be collected for distribution at the conference. The final versions of abstracts should be submitted not later than March 31, 2010. Full papers are requested by April 30, 2010.

## **ORGANIZED PANELS**

Organized panels, composed of 3-4 scholars presenting formal papers and 1 or 2 discussants that can be scheduled into one-and-a-half-hour time slots are also invited. Panel organizers are requested to supply the following information:

- Title of the panel
- Conference theme(s) related to the panel
- Name, institution, address and email of the panel organizer
- Name, institution, address and email of each paper presenter
- Names, institutions, addresses and email of the panel

discussants

- Abstract (250 words or less) describing the panel as a whole
- Title of each paper and abstract (250 words or less) for each paper

## **INDIVIDUAL PAPERS**

Individual papers will be grouped into coherent panels. The papers must include the following:

- Title of the paper
- Name, institution, address and email of paper presenter
- Abstracts (250 words or less) with identified keywords.
- Related conference theme(s)

## REGISTRATION

All participants are requested to register online before June 15, 2010. Registration after this date must be made on-site. The registration fee includes the conference program, an abstract publication, a CD of the conference proceedings, daily lunches and breaks, and one reception dinner. Early registration deadline is April 30, 2010. Please note that there will be no refund for cancellation or absence.

### Registration Fees

15% discount applies to CLS members. Membership information available at:

<http://laostudies.org/content/view/30/46/>

	<i>Early registration fee</i> (on or before April 30, 2010)	<i>Late/on-site registration fee</i> (after April 30, 2010)
Lao, Thai Nationals	2,400 Baht /US\$70	3,400 Baht/US\$100
Foreign Participants	US\$100	US\$150
Lao, Thai Students*	1,200 Baht/US\$35	2,400 Baht/US\$70
Foreign Students*	US\$70	US\$100

\* Students must present valid student identification at the time of registration

Payment can be done online by credit card, international bank transfer, or domestic payment. For on-line credit card payment, please visit:

<https://co.clickandpledge.com/advanced/default.aspx?wid=29989>

### **Optional Lao Study Tour Program**

An optional Lao Study Tour is being arranged; details will be coming soon.