



Prof.
UBUKATA Fumikazu



Political economy of natural resource development and its social impact in Southeast Asia

Recent economic growth in Southeast Asia has resulted in rapid depletion of natural resources. Yet many villagers near the resource development area have not enjoyed improvements in their lives as expected. Rather, some are even sacrificed by resource development projects and environmental conservation policies. Our research examines how relevant stakeholders, such as governments, firms, villagers, and external agencies, have interacted in certain resource development projects, such as in the palm oil industry, pulp and paper industry, aquaculture, forest conservation, and climate change adaptation, and how this interaction has affected rural societies in Southeast Asia.



Harvesting oil palm by an Indonesian plantation worker (Sarawak, Malaysia, 2011)

Political processes and impacts of capitalization/financialization of nature in Southeast Asia



Photo : Vanishing Tropical Forest in Southeast Asia. Deforestation is believed to be a significant source of carbon emission. (Sarawak, Malaysia, 2008)

In recent years, many agencies in developing countries have applied the approach to procure funds by the use of financial instruments and direct payments to mitigate environmental problems. Common examples include the use of carbon credits and systems to pay for environmental services. Taking examples from Southeast Asia, we examine processes that lead to the formulation of these funding mechanisms, and regards them as new developments that mainstream the commodification of nature (capitalization/financialization of nature). At the same time, we also examine its socioeconomic impacts and the changes in governance of society and the environment.