

Final Conference: Green Transformations in the Global South (GreeTS)

Opening the black box of a pro-active state and the management of sustainability trade-offs in Costa Rica and Vietnam

Thursday, 17th and Friday, 18th January 2019
Schader-Forum, Goethestraße 2, 64285 Darmstadt

Climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the pollution of the oceans – over the last century the sum of human activities has clearly pushed us beyond our planetary boundaries. Radical transformations are, therefore, necessary on all levels to achieve sustainability in its economic, social and ecological dimensions and to enable a good life also for future generations. The primary responsibility in global environmental governance rests with industrialized states, but emerging economies of the Global South have also become important players sometimes aligning their political and economical practices towards “green ideas”. Especially changes in the areas of land use, such as forestry and agribusiness as well as energy, with the expansion of renewable sources, promise positive effects.

Various countries have articulated energy or land use targets through which they commit themselves towards the implementation of ambitious policies. Two pioneers in this development are Costa Rica and Vietnam. Costa Rica, the allegedly liberal Eldorado for ecotourism, has expressed the objective of becoming “carbon-neutral” until 2021. Vietnam, one of

the new so called “Asian Tigers”, puts an increasing emphasis on “green growth” without giving up its planned economy approach and within a centralist and socialist context.

But how does the implementation of those policies work? And what are the driving forces which initiate and accompany the formulation of these measures on the national and local level? Which effects do different models of state / civil society relations have? How does the regional and global embeddedness of these countries in capitalist production systems affect the realization of these objectives? And in what ways are the negative trade-offs being dealt with?

These questions have been at the centre of the international and interdisciplinary research project “GreeTS: Green Transformations in the Global South” over the last three years. GreeTS is led by a team of researchers at the Technische Universität Darmstadt and presents its findings at a final conference at the Schader-Forum in Darmstadt on the 17th and 18th of January 2019.

Thursday, January 17th 2019

- 10:30 – 11:00 am **Welcome und Introduction**
Alexander Gemeinhardt, Schader-Stiftung
Prof. Markus Lederer, Technische Universität Darmstadt
- 11:00 – 12:30 am **Keynote**
Prof. Miranda Schreurs, Technische Universität München
Host: *Prof. Markus Lederer, Technische Universität Darmstadt*
- 12:30 – 14:00 pm **Lunch**
- 14:00 – 15:30 pm **GreeTS: The Research Project**
Prof. Markus Lederer & Dr. Linda Wallbott, Technische Universität Darmstadt
Comment: *Prof. Harald Fuhr, Universität Potsdam*
Host: *Dennis Weis, Schader-Stiftung*
- 15:30 – 16:00 pm **Coffee Break**
- 16:00 – 18:00 pm **Green Transformations and the Energy Sector**
Prof. Dang Nguyen Anh, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Hanoi
Dr. Frauke Urban, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm
Dr. Giuseppina Siciliano, University of London
Comment: *Dr. Jochen Meyer-Lohmann, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, Frankfurt am Main*
Host: *Dr. Linda Wallbott, Technische Universität Darmstadt*
- 18:00 – 19:30 pm **Fingerfood**
- 19:30 – 21:00 pm **Public Panel: Green Transformations in the Global South**
Dr. Steffen Bauer, Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, Bonn
Dr. Frauke Urban, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm
Prof. Harald Fuhr, Universität Potsdam
Host: *Prof. Markus Lederer, Technische Universität Darmstadt*

Friday, January 18th 2019

- 9:00 – 11:00 am **Green Transformations and the Land Use Sector**
Dr. Alonso Villalobos, Universidad de Costa Rica, San José
Victor Milla, Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza, Cartago
Dr. Linda Wallbott, Technische Universität Darmstadt
Host: *Dr. Frauke Urban, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm*
- 11:00 – 11:30 am **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 – 13:30 pm **Green Transformations inter-regional: the European Union and the Global South**
Prof. Michèle Knodt, Technische Universität Darmstadt
Prof. Dang Nguyen Anh, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Hanoi
Prof. Guillermo Navarro, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rom
Comment: *Sebastian Meurer, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammen-
arbeit, Eschborn*
Host: *Prof. Markus Lederer, Technische Universität Darmstadt*
- 13:30 – 14:00 pm **Lunch and farewell**