PURDNet Steering Committee Meeting

27-30 January 2018
Royal City Hotel, Bangkok and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Ayutthaya, Thailand

Meeting Minutes
Outcomes of the PURDNet Steering Committee Meeting

Discussion on 27 January 2018
Venue: Royal City Hotel, Bangkok

1. The first meeting of PURDNet Steering Committee took place with the welcome note by Dr. Jitti Mongkolnchaiarunya, Dean of PSDS and coordinator of PURDNet. He briefly presented the background of the formation of PURDNet during the Expert Group meeting on “The Revitalization of Rural Development for Eradication of Poverty in Asia” held at Udon Thani city in August 2017.

2. It was felt that there is need of a forum where the advocacy and dissemination of people centered rural development for eradication of poverty. It is also felt that the right based people centered rural development network with the membership of the champions of those rural development values is proposed. The Expert Group meeting held in Udon Thani city mandated the formation of the rural development network after the name of Dr. Puey Ungphakorn in recognition of his outstanding contributions for the development of Thailand.

3. The agenda for the two-day meeting of PURDNet was presented and agreed by the participants for discussion (Program is attached in Annex 1 and Participant list is attached in Annex 3)

4. The meeting presented the view that the rural development is to be now multi-functional approach imbibing contribution of different stakeholders including the excluded marginal people as well as business sector. This network has to set new frontier of rural development for poverty eradication.

5. The coordinator presented the spin off from the Expert Group meeting held in Udon Thani in August 2017. They were recommendations to form two committees:
   (a) Policy recommendation for rural development to be discussed in ASEAN meeting.
   (b) Formation of PURDNet and mandated by the Expert Group meeting in Udon Thani. (TOR of PURDNet is attached in Annex 2). Over 120 participants participated in Udon Thani meeting PURDNet and interim steering committee was formed with the participation of 18 member countries who were representing the Udon Thani meeting. The PURDNet designed the webpage on PURDNet to disseminate the information of rural development among the members of PURDNet members. Google networking was prepared with over 150 mailing list Separate mailing list of the interim steering committee was prepared. PURDNet webpage was uploaded with regular updating information from the member country participants. There slots for events of activities, case studies and other relevant information. The webpage has been visited over by 2500 visitors from 26 countries. (The status of webpage visitors is given in Annex 4). The PURDNet is providing inputs in the 17 Conference on Community Social Development and 1st International Conference bringing the experiences of rural development and poverty eradication from among ASEAN and South Asian countries Separate
sessions on English language for panel discussion and paper presentation were planned.

6. Many interesting points about the role of network were presented by the interim Steering Committee members. They are:

(a) It is to be made clear what this network is to offer. It is expected to share and learn from each other’s experiences.

(b) What activities should have focus by network? It has to establish networking between and among countries and disseminate the information. However, one has to take into consideration of what information and quality of information. It is to be made clear what level of information. Should it be only on poverty eradication or rural development or community development with the context of rural development and poverty eradication in Asian countries.

(c) How can network facilitate the interaction among the farmers, students, practitioners and faculty members. This network is composed of multi-sector stakeholders so the network can be a good platform for interaction among farmers, students, practitioners and faculty members.

(d) It is further suggested that the focus of the network should be to collect correct information on rural development and poverty eradication so that those figures can be used in programing the rural development. The correct facts and figures will help design appropriate and effective rural development programs. One of the objectives of the network should be to training new generation of people with leadership quality and promote the culture among the young people to work together.

(e) It is necessary to look at the comparative advantage of the PURDNet work. There are already many other networks on rural development. It should not be one more addition. The geographical coverage should be at this stage for Asian countries. It comprises vast population requiring attention on poverty eradication and rural development.

(f) It is proposed that the network should promote the culture of working together among the countries and faculty members. Collaborative research activity among universities and faculty members might be one of the important area for networking. The network should focus on social inclusion, on marginal people and it should include the issues of the urban development as well. Hence, it should have global approach.

(g) The unique value of this network is the value propagated by Dr. Puey Ungphakorn. It represents the unique value of this network. We have to explore further the value of Dr. Puey and elaborate and incorporate those values in the rural development programs. This form is for facilitation not for competition and promote situation for contribution by different stakeholders for the promotion of collaborative rural development and poverty eradication program.
Dr. Jitti presented the summary of discussion in the meeting:

1. The focus of network will be rural development and poverty eradication in Asia.
2. The role of network is to facilitate, not so much of implementation of the programs themselves.
3. Members of network might take initiative to undertake programs and network bring the interested groups of the people together.
4. PURDNet will play a role of match making, like connecting between those who needs something and who can provide something together.
5. This network is not purely academics. However, many of them are academic. It has to collect facts and figures and put in webpage. Case studies of poverty alleviations are to be prepared. Let those case studies be uploaded in webpage for the benefit of those people who are interested in rural development and poverty alleviation.
6. It is also discussed that there is a need to promote new leaders and facilitate the learning of new generations.
7. Collaborative research and exchange programs could be promoted through networking.
The discussion dealt for some time what could be the activities of PURDNet. It is suggested that the activities of PURDNet will revolve around:

1. Administration of PURDNet which will include getting the information on rural development, poverty alleviation and community social development across the members of the network.

2. Advocacy role for putting rural development and poverty agenda in development programs. Special programs on community social development are to be promoted. The advocacy role of PURDNet will be at policy level, academic institutions and among different age groups, etc.

3. Advancement of PURDNet values through consultancy, training, conferences, seminars, online courses on different aspects rural development and sharing the quality information on rural development through websites and newsletters.

In order to translate these activities into action and operationalize, a Steering Committee of PURDNet with the following members are formed under the coordinatorship of Dr Jitti Mongkolnchaiarunya and co-coordinatorship of Dr. Prachanda Pradhan. The term of PURDNet Steering Committee shall be for two years (starting from 2018 onwards).

**Name list of Steering Committee members:**

1. Asst. Prof. Dr. Jitti Mongkolnchaiarunya, Thailand
2. Dr. Prachanda Pradhan, Nepal
3. Prof. Dr. Dang Nguyen Anh, Vietnam
4. Prof. Dr. Tan Ngoh Tiong, Singapore
5. Mr. Sengkham Intiratvongsy, Lao PDR
6. Dr. Sirojudin Abbas, Indonesia
7. Assoc. Prof. Rainier V. Almazan, Philippines
8. Dr. A Nagaleitchimee Annamalai, Malaysia
9. Prof. Dr. P.M. Sandhya Rani, India
10. Mrs. Rashmi Pandey, India
11. Mr. Masood ur Rehman Azhar, Pakistan
12. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ashir Ahmed, Bangladesh
13. Dr. Jirawan Boonperm, Thailand
14. Dr. Kedkun Srakewee, Thailand.

In order to implement the activities thus agreed in the meeting, sub-committees are formed.

**Administration and communication sub committee**

1. Dr. Jitti Mongkolnchaiarunya
2. Mr. Sengkham Intiratvongsy
3. Dr. Kedkun Srakwee (act as Secretary to PURDNET)
4. Mrs. Rashmi Pandey
5. Mr. Pravakar Pradhan (webpage designer & administrator)
(b) **Advancement Group**
1. Dr. Ashir Ahmed, Bangladesh
2. Dr. Sirojudin Abbas, Indonesia
3. Dr. Dang Nguyen Anh, Vietnam
4. Assoc. Prof. Rainier V. Almazan, Philippines
5. Dr. Jirawan Boonperm, Thailand

(c) **International Group for promotion of Sustainable Development Goals** *(Look for and promotion of international cooperation through international events like conference, seminars and on line training and course developments.)*
1. Dr. Tan Ngoh Tiong, Singapore
2. Dr. Prachanda Pradhan, Nepal
3. Dr. P. M. Sandhya Rani, India
4. Dr. Nagaletchimee Annamalai, Malaysia
5. Mr. Masood ur Rehman Azhar, Pakistan

There is no specified secretariat physical location assigned. The network connection will be through emails and other electronic media. However, if there is a need to testify its existence, the Puey Ungkhakorn School of Development Studies (PSDS), Thammasat University, can provide the office.

**Funding:** Nominal fund for the operation of the minimum network activities are mobilized by the Coordinator. Separate fund collection is not in the agenda at the moment. Whatever small fund could be mobilized by individual members for activities in each country. No separate fund is proposed yet. However, funds will be mobilized when some events are to be materialized.

Mrs. Rashmi Pandey from International Association of Schools of Social Works of Mumbai, India, Dr. Tan from Global Institute of Social Works, Singapore and Dr. Prachanda Pradhan from FMIST, Nepal will be providing support to network for information sharing, communication and linking regularly with general network members.

This network will be linking with other networks for sharing our information and receiving their information to our network members.
Discussion on 30 January 2018
Venue: Morning session at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU), Ayutthaya

We reconvened the PURDNet Steering Committee Meeting to discuss two agenda:
1. What could be the future activities of PURDNet?
2. How can exchange programs among the institutes and countries take place?

Several possible future activities of PURDNet were proposed by the members and had elaborate discussions. The topics identified for discussion are:

a. Exchange program

The activity under exchange program is about the exchange of manpower from among the countries. They could be professors of the university or young faculty members or young community leaders who would like to have exposure of the rural development activities of other country.

In such case three actors are involved. Participant who would like to visit other country, PURDNet will be doing the facilitating role to bring two parties together like match making and third party will be the host institution or host country to provide facilitating role to make the exchange visit possible. The financial cost sharing will have to be discussed before the program implemented. They are to be clearly spelled out.

b. Sharing of information about the experiences of rural development program implementation and their good or bad impacts

The sharing of information can take place via PURDNet webpage or directly between and among the participants of the member countries of PURDNet. The sharing of information includes:

- The results of the ongoing implementation of the rural development program and efforts for poverty alleviations.
We can share about the seminars, conferences and training programs on rural development, community social development and poverty alleviation, etc. They may include many other programs which have relevance on rural development and poverty alleviation.

c. Evaluation of the ongoing program in the PURDNet member countries. Monitor those programs and share the experiences among the members of PURDNet.

It is agreed that we will not be implementing projects by ourselves but we will be doing monitoring and evaluating the implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation programs or social development programs. Two to three projects from among the countries are to be selected for monitoring, evaluation and experience sharing.

d. Online training program on short courses on rural development, or on social work or irrigation management in rural areas by the farmers themselves, etc.

Elaborated discussion took place where on line course development can be one of the potential activities of PURDNet. Those course could include any subject on social work. Rural development or irrigation for example. It can be free or there is possibility to charge nominal fee of the course. The Global Institute of Social Work of Singapore is undertaking such course and it can provide support to PURDNet on online course development and undertaking the program implementation. Several other issues were also discussed. One of them is language barrier. The course may have in two languages one in particular country language and other in English as a common language. It is proposed that English be made a primary language. In the area of on line course, Dr. Annamalai from Malaysia expressed willingness to support the program in designing the courses with expert inputs from subject matter experts.

e. Award giving activity by PURDNet in recognition of the outstanding work for the uplift meant of the poor people among the member countries of PURDNet (like Magasaysey Award of Philippines)

It is agreed that award in the name of Dr. Puey can be established for his outstanding contribution in Thailand and in the neighboring countries in improving the banking sector for the benefit of the poor people. It is also informed to the meeting that there are already 3 outstanding awards established in the name of Dr. Puey (one for SME, one for community based welfare fund, and last but least to NGO who devoted his/her life for the betterment of disadvantaged groups, applying Dr. Puey working principles: non-violence method, community and people oriented, democratic value, based on righteousness, utilization of both modern and indigenous knowledge).
Hence, instead of PURDNet directly establishing separate award, it is proposed to negotiate with the other agencies about PURDNet involvement in the jury or organizing training or workshop during award giving ceremony. Provision can be made to award to the “community groups”. Criteria for screening and selection of the award winning community are to be developed.

The focus of work of PURDNet will be basically the collaborative mode. There is good example this year. The 45 universities which offer community, social development programs who form themselves as network and organized annual national conference for last 16 years. In the 17th conference, PURDNet took initiative to add on the 1st international dimension and brought together people from several countries. There was also a specific English language session on rural development, poverty eradication, ethic and virtues and sustainable development, by both Thai and international participants. This can be the model for other countries as well.

Regarding Award, these questions are to be answered:

1. What is this award?
2. Who receives?
3. How are the candidates to be selected?
4. What are the expected outcomes of this award?

**f. Continuation of user friendly webpage of PURDNet with improvements of content and presentation style**

The webpage will continue Format of the presentation to be improved. Many links of the information will be included in the webpage. Power Point Slides will be presented in webpages. Other information will be given in summary form. Copyright issue is to be carefully considered. Hence, full paper upon the request of the author can be included both the author has to prove that it has not been published elsewhere. Short video clips on the activities will be useful.

**In summary: Following points can be summarized**

- Exchange programs at researcher level, young generation, professional leaders program between and among countries.
- Sharing information, Evaluation and monitoring of the ongoing program
- On-line courses on different subjects can be considered specially on social development, rural development, etc.
- Award giving in honor of Puey’s name. It has to be explored further on.
- Organize international conference or seminar of PURDNet in tandem of other events like the one in MCU
Collaboration between and among the institutes of the region

During discussion on this issue, each member present program of their respective institutes. They were rich in varieties of program in different disciplines.

However, two types of opinions were expressed. Some of them have come I the meeting as an individual so commitment on behalf of the institution cannot be done in the meeting. Other group felt that some commitment can be made. However, it is agreed that members participated in the meeting expressed the willingness if someone wants to visit some program in some country, such program can be facilitated on the individual Jal basis.

The collaboration among the institutions of these countries have to be done through signing of MOU or MOA. PURDNet will be performing only facilitating role in such situation.
## Program for Steering Committee Meeting

### 27 January 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>18.00-19.00 pm</td>
<td>Dinner at the Royal City hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.00-21.00 pm</td>
<td>- Welcome to participants for PURDNet Meeting and - Brief introduction of PURDNet</td>
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*By Dr. Jitti Mongkolnchaiarunya*
Coordinator of PURDNet

- Self-Introduction of the participants
- Introduction of Agenda for Discussion

*By Dr. Prachanda Pradhan*
Co-Coordinator of PURDNet

### Agenda

1. Background of PURDNet
2. Spin off from Expert Group Meeting
3. TOR of PURDNet (Paper to be circulated)
4. Activities and Future Plan of PURDNet
   (What activities can be undertaken? (individually and collectively, seminar, conference, case writing, collaborative research, exchange visits, webpage development))

### 28 January 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.30-10.00 am</td>
<td>5. Terms and Role of the members</td>
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<td>6. Housing of Secretariat of PURDNet</td>
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<td>7. Communication Strategy among committee and PURDNet members (Formation of PURDNet case studies, webpage dissemination)</td>
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<td>8. Expansion of membership (Individual and Institution)</td>
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<td>10.00-10.30 am</td>
<td><strong>Tea Break</strong></td>
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<td>10.30-11.30 am</td>
<td>9. Financing of PURDNet and other activities (Thailand and country members and international organizations)</td>
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<td>10. Flagship project selection, program for next two years</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30 am -13.00pm</td>
<td>11. Promotion of bilateral programs among institutions, members and countries Terms and Role of Steering Committee members</td>
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<td>12. Miscellaneous</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 30 January 2018

- (unfinished agenda can be discussed at Ayutthaya)

### 13:00-14:00 pm

*Lunch at Hotel*

### 14:30 pm onwards

*Travel to Ayudhaya and city tour, check in at River View Place hotel*
Annex 2

Terms of Reference for PURDNET Steering Committee members (For Discussion)

Context:
The Expert Meeting on Revitalizing Rural Development for Eradication of Poverty in Asia held between 2-4 August, 2017 at Udon Thani City decided to form an informal network of the people interested for the promotion of rural development to eradicate poverty in Asia.

Rationale for Network:
It was felt that there is need of a forum where the advocacy and dissemination of people centered rural development for eradication of poverty is felt so the right based people centered rural development network with the membership of champions of those rural development values is proposed.

Name of Network:
Puey Ungphakorn Rural Development Network (PURDNet)
At present, this will be informal network of those interested people who would like to promote the causes of rural development for poverty eradication in Asia.

Activities to be promoted by the members of the Steering Committee Network are as follows:

• Dissemination of information among network members on rural development issues and programs and achievements,
• Preparation of case studies, sharing data and emerging issues from among the countries through webpage dedicated for PURDNet.
• To bring people together through digital network, electronic media and exchange of information between and among members of the network
• Enhance the network activities through appropriate digital technology
• Practical, manageable, useful activities to be identified by steering committee in their next meeting.
• Encourage academics, students and other development agencies to work together in rural areas
• Training programme for young farmers, students, young generations
• Collaborative effort on cross cutting issues on rural development among countries.
**Geographical coverage of network**

- This network will be of Global nature but at present, it will focus on ASEAN and South Asian Countries (SAARC).

**Members for Network**

All participants who were present in the expert meeting at Udon Thani, Thailand can be members of this group and they will be connected through electronic media. The Steering Committee members will help the enrollment of other interested people to be members in the network of PURDNet.

**Place of network/Secretariat**

A. Thammassat University and Dr. Jitti Mongkolnchiarunya dean of Puey Ungphakorn School of Development Studies (jitti_m@yahoo.com) as a coordinator,

B. Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Promotion Trust (FMIST) Nepal - Dr. Prachanda Pradhan of FMIST as Co-coordinator of network (fmist@wlink.com.np or pradhanpp@hotmail.com). FMIST will act as interim Secretariat for Network with Support of International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) (rashmi@iassw.aiets.org) India, and Global Institute of Social Work, Singapore (tannt@suss.edu.org).

**Through the promotion of Network, International Cooperation programs are proposed:**

- In between two countries
- Among the countries
- Field work, field visits/trips/excursion of the well-established rural development program
- Collaborative research activities among the members of the network
- Sharing of documentation-rural development programme and other audio-visual materials
- Joint forum of existing organizations
- Encourage the exchange program (training) for young generations to learn from practical experiences (training programme)
- Webinar and online discussion forums on various topics related to Rural Development

*Note: This is a draft TOR and will be finalized by Steering Committee in their next meeting.*
Annex 3

List of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact detail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Ms. Kodchakorn Wisutvasudharn</td>
<td>Member, Thailand Sustainable Development Foundation, Thailand</td>
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<td>S. No.</td>
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<td>14.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 4

Status of webpage visitors

Table: 26 Countries visited PURDNet Webpage (till 24 January 2018)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Views</th>
<th>Country</th>
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