

AAEH 2025 Panel List

Plenary sessions

Panel ID	Panel Title	Panel Type	Call for Papers	Contents Description	Convenor	Affiliation	Topics	Remarks
PL-01	Asian monsoon in climate change: measurement, models and hidden crises	Plenary session	Yes	Climate has been changed and is expected to change rapidly in future. Even the realization of climate tipping points is now being frequently whispered about. To tackle with Asian climate change, understanding of historical pathway of earth climate under which human being developed society is mandatory. However, climate change impact on the Asian monsoon system is a challenging problem because of the limitation of historical and present dataset, difficulty in understanding the land-atmosphere interaction that should be one of the most intrinsic processes of Asian monsoon, and its non-linear chaotic behavior. On the other hand, contemporary climate science is providing huge amount of climate model outputs based on observational and proxy dataset. What is recent understanding of the mechanisms of the climate systems? What is advance and uncertainty in state-of-the-art recent climate datasets? In this session, we would like to exchange research topics regarding the climate science and its applications relevant to historical and future climate change in Asian monsoon region.	Toru Terao	Kagawa University	Air;Water;	
PL-02	Environmental history of seaweed/-glass bed and future perspectives in the Seto Inland Sea, Japan	Plenary session	Yes	The Seto Inland Sea is the largest inland sea in Japan, surrounded by Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu, with more than 700 islands and a coastline as long as 7,230 km. Can humans really manage such an inland sea? We would like to organise a plenary session where researchers on inland seas can gather not only from Japan but also widely.	Satoshi Murayama	Kagawa University	Animals;PIants;Micro organisms; Water;Food s;Waste;	
PL-03	Environmental history of sugar and sweets: resources location, technology and rare sugar possibilities	Plenary session	Yes	Kagawa University is a centre for research on rare sugars, which are also effective against diabetes, and there is a wealth of historical research on carbohydrates, as exemplified by Sydney Wilfred Mintz, or on sweets. How can the environmental history of carbohydrates and confectionery be depicted? We look forward to receiving presentations not only from Japan but also from all parts of Asia and the rest of the world.	Satoshi Murayama	Kagawa University	Plants;Micro organism s;Land;Food s;Humans ;	
PL-04	Rural areas, remote areas and remote islands. Will an island, Teshima, in the Seto Inland Sea tell us about the wrong path for post-war Japan?	Plenary session	Yes	There are remote corners of post-war Japan where nuclear power stations were built and, in some cases, there is an island where urban waste - for example, disused automobile shredder dust - was disposed of in the order of 500 000 or even one million tonnes. That is Teshima. But the island has now been given the name Island of Art. Why? How can the environmental history of remote and remote areas away from the city - a remote island in the Seto Inland Sea, or remote islands in general - be depicted? What can we learn from the history of Teshima? Or has post-war Japan gone down some wrong path? Is this a Japan-only phenomenon, with the concentration of population in Tokyo and other large cities and the rapid decline of the population in remote areas, where, in both, everything seems to be going wrong? We would like to hear from Asia and other parts of the world about problems in rural areas, remote areas and remote islands. In addition, Teshima is celebrating 50 years since the industrial waste problem was exposed. We believe that this is an excellent opportunity to review the modern history of Teshima.	Satoshi Murayama	Kagawa University	Waste;Disasters;	

PL-05	Global environmental history initiatives: crises in localities	Plenary session	Yes	We would like to invite speakers representing ICEHO, the American Society for Environmental History, the European Society for Environmental History, as well as the Asian Association for Environmental History, to present their topics for a broad discussion on which initiatives are active, and where environmental history research is heading in the world. We look forward to hearing about trends in environmental history research more widely around the world, as well as topics from a variety of fields.	Satoshi Murayama	Kagawa University	Animals;PIants;Microorganisms;Water;Air;Land;Disasters;Foods;Waste;Humans;	
PL-06	Scientific and Humanistic Perspectives on Altered Earth in Japan	Plenary session	Yes	This panel takes as its jumping off point the Anthropocene Epoch—defined as the mid-twentieth-century transformation of Earth from the relatively stable Holocene epoch of the past 11,700 years to its new, destabilized, irreversible, and still evolving state. Understanding this new planetary state requires not only the sciences but also the humanities and social sciences since we need multiple perspectives on this multifaceted challenge. Understanding the Anthropocene also requires not only a planetary perspective but also local knowledge, including in-depth research on Japan's waters, mountains, biodiversity, soils and on its human systems including its politics, policies, culture, and demography. Our panel combines scientists with humanists and social scientists to highlight the challenges of our altered Earth in this one very important place. On the one hand, Japan has always been at the mercy of geological forces which have brought both beauty and tragedy to its people, and Japanese society has developed many means of coping with disaster while maintaining social cohesion. On the other hand, in the Anthropocene, it is even more vulnerable, and the question is whether environmental research can alert the public and policy makers to the novel challenges and full magnitude of the Anthropocene's physical impacts—and the concomitant political, economic, and cultural challenges.	Julia Adeney Thomas	University of Notre Dame	Animals;PIants;Mocroorganisms;Water;Air;Land;Disasters;Foods;Waste;Humans;	

Paper sessions

Panel ID	Panel Title	Panel Type	Call for Papers	Contents Description	Convenor	Affiliation	Topics	Affiliation
PS-01	Nature's inequality, humans' tragedies	Paper session	Yes	It was concluded that the Anthropocene as a geological age is premature. However, fears that humanity may continue to change the planet will be real. It is clear that extreme weather events will become the norm and that we are already living in the midst of climate change. What are the fundamental questions? The Anthropocene period raises the question of the impact of humans and their activities on the Earth, but has natural diversity ever been a focal point in this issue? It was the idealist philosopher Kant who determined that the inequalities of nature create wars, and that the only way to avoid wars is through the existence of international organisations. How should we think about both the global crisis of the Anthropocene and the diversity of the Earth? And how should we act now? We look forward to papers from a variety of perspectives.	Satoshi Murayama	Kagawa University	Land;Water;Air;Humans;Earth System;	

PS-02	Traditional Ecological Knowledges & Practices of Traditional Societies in Asia—An Historical Assessment	Paper session	Yes	<p>Many Indigenous societies, often referred to as indigenous or tribal people, have accumulated a whole lot of empirical knowledge on the basis of their experience while dealing with Nature and natural resources. This traditional wisdom is based on the intrinsic realization that man and Nature form part of an indivisible whole, and therefore should live in partnership with each other. This eco-centric view of traditional societies is widely reflected in their attitudes towards plants, animals, rivers, and the earth. With biodiversity concerns having been pushed upfront, in more recent times, in the context of global change, traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), encompassing all issues linked to ecology and natural resources management has assumed greater significance. An assessment of TEK in Asia shows that it encompasses several fields, namely, sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation by sacred groves, sacred landscape and sacred plant species, crop management, farm management, animal management and therapeutic role of Ayurveda. There is a rich trove of religious and nonreligious texts available in different centres in Asia that deal with these aspects of TEK. Of special interest is the complex relationship between indigenous ecological practices and other ways of interacting with the environment, particularly regional and national programs of natural resource management. TEK is important for its own sake and for its social and cultural values.</p>	BAISAKHI BANDYOPADHYAY	THE ASIATIC SOCIETY	Animals;PIants;Humans;Waste;Land;Air;Water;Microorganisms;Foods;Disasters;	
PS-03	Building to Survive: Precarious Alterations of the Earth from Kyoto to Manchuria	Paper session	Yes	<p>This panel will approach the topic of the built environment with multidisciplinary approaches in different historical periods, geographical locations, and using diverse data. We use a variety of methodologies: premodern history focusing on archaeology and material culture; literature and environmental humanities; sociology; and modern history. The link between these methods is a focus on human-environment co-constitution and interdependence.</p>	Morgan Pitelka	University of North Carolina	Animals;Microorganisms;Land;Water;Foods;Waste;Humans;	
PS-04	Industrial Creatures and Sceneries: The Environmental Governmentality in the Making of the Japanese Imperial Economy	Paper session	Yes	<p>With case studies of industries, species, landscapes, seascapes, and diverse environments across the colonial places in the Japanese empire, this panel engages the classic theme of Japan's imperial economy with growing scholarship that problematizes core-periphery relationship and acknowledges human-nonhuman symbiosis. Past colonial studies tend to emphasize the impacts of imperial policymaking, which centered on the Japanese bureaucrats and effects from Japan to its colonies. This panel instead centers around broadly defined ecological resources and explores how industrial development in the environmental margins of the Empire shaped the formation of imperial goals, needs, policies and so on. By focusing on colonial species and sceneries in relation to resources, this panel aims to inquire: what social relationships and environmental governance emerged when the Japanese developed their own strategies to secure the necessary resources? How encountering the colonial species and environments configured the Japanese unique rationales in its resource management and why so? What could the perspectives of the marginal or peripheral shed light on the features of the Japanese empire either in its own or in the global context? This panel not only tries to examine the complexity and restructuring effects of environmental governmentality on Japan's imperial economy but also hopes to illuminate comparative studies of empires, which have been still underexamined in the emerging field of environmental history.</p>	Huahsuan Chu	National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University	Animals;PIants;Land;Sea;	

PS-05	Historicising Commons: The Processes of Commonisation-decommonisation in Asia	Paper session	Yes	This panel addresses the dynamic nature of commons by foregrounding the importance of historical context, power relations, and political forces in shaping the challenges of sustaining commons from local to global levels. It introduces the concepts of commonisation and decommonisation to conceptualize commons as ongoing processes, offering analytical insights for policy-making, practical applications, and theoretical development aimed at preserving commons for the future. 'Commonisation' refers to the transformation of a resource into a communal use regime managed by commons institutions that navigate issues of excludability and subtractability. In contrast, decommonisation' describes the process by which such a resource loses these defining characteristics. These processes are continuous and potentially reversible, driven by the socio-cultural, economic, ecological, and political history and traditions of a region, as well as various internal and external forces. By utilizing commonisation and decommonisation as analytical frameworks, this panel examines how environmental and natural resources are managed and transformed, influenced by multi-level drivers rooted in historical, power, and political dynamics across different geographic and temporal settings. With specific focus on Asia, the papers in this panel will demonstrate how a deep understanding of historical context is crucial for navigating the commonisation and decommonisation processes, ensuring the viability and sustainability of commons in the future.	Vipul Singh	University of Delhi	Land;Disasters;Humans;Rivers, Coasts and Oceans;
PS-06	Power of the landscape: Field museum to feel the earth	Paper session	Yes	We are living in specific landscape with other agents like animals, plants, microorganisms and possibly the earth itself. To study such interactions on the earth, we conduct field works touching with people and agents that consist of landscape. Such field activity is the core of research on environmental history. And at the same time, it can be chance for a good exposure of people to the reality in the changing earth. In this panel, we discuss about field museums, which are real spaces in landscapes for such field activities. The field museum can be a base to preserve historical landscape against the pressure of changing society and nature. Interactions among people and other agents in the field museum can develop new research activities. It further increases people's awareness of global change and crisis for the sustainability. In this panel, we will discuss plans, ideas, and experiences of field museums in Asian and other regions.	Toru Terao	Kagawa University	Animals;Plants;Microorganisms; Water;Air;Land;Disasters;Foods; Waste;Humans;
PS-07	The History of Humans and Disasters	Paper session	Yes	The panel discussion will explore the multifaceted relationship between natural disasters and human society, with a focus on historical and contemporary perspectives. The background idea centers on understanding how natural disasters occur and evolve over time, and how their impacts are influenced by technological advancements in disaster prevention and reduction. The purpose is to illuminate the historical regularities and regional variations of disaster events, revealing how societies have interacted with and responded to these events throughout history. Objectives include examining the development of disaster prevention technologies, analyzing the cultural and social dimensions of historical disaster responses, and investigating the connections between natural disasters and global environmental changes. Content will cover the historical context of disaster management, the influence of disaster culture on societal practices, and a global perspective on typical disaster events. This comprehensive approach aims to provide a deeper understanding of the interplay between natural disasters and human responses, contributing to better-informed disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies.	FENGXIAN BU	Shaanxi Normal University	Disasters;

PS-08	Food and Art in Times of Ecological Crises	Paper session	Yes	The interconnection of food and art has especially come to the fore in recent years. This interconnection is particularly highlighted by an increasing number of artistic practices and scholastic research that examine the changing relations between food and art in response to ecological crises in the post-pandemic. Food in artistic expressions; art in food production and preparation. Food as artistic expressions; art as critical reflections on food. Food as/is artistic activism; art as/is an envisioning of alternative social, cultural and economic models governing food production, supply, and consumption. Art, like food, sustains and nourishes. Food, like art, elevates and raises critical social and cultural awareness. Beyond the representational, how does the intersection of food and art pave ways towards sustainability? How can it become a solution or an effective critical response to ecological crises? How has the relationship between food and art transformed in the face of climate change? This interdisciplinary panel invites researchers and arts practitioners interested in examining the intersection of, and interaction between, food and art against the backdrop of ecological crises. Case studies, philosophical contemplation, and static studies are welcome.	Peilin Liang	National University of Singapore	Foods;Was te;Humans; Disasters;L and;Air;Wa ter;Plants; Animals;
PS-09	Rethinking Modern Asian Opium History through the Environmental History Perspective	Paper session	Maybe	Asia played a pivotal role in modern global opium history both economically and environmentally. The cultivation of opium, its extensive trade networks, and the Opium Wars in different places spanned vast regions of the continent, intricately also linking Asia to the global economy. This panel will adopt a comparative view to explore how the opium trade was born from and transformed the Asian ecosystems, and to what extent the 'opiumization' of Asia's environment profoundly shaped Asian modern history and global capitalism and colonialism history. The panel aims to explore the interconnections between opium commodity chains and seasonality in early modern or modern maritime Asia and welcome different types of empirical case studies from China, India, Indonesia and other potential regions.	Lingjing WU	The Renmin University of China	Plants;Hu mans;Disa sters;Land; Air;
PS-10	Formulating Coastal Art History in Asia: Artistic representations of and practices for coastal ecologies	Paper session	Yes	Coastlines play an integral role in transforming the interrelationships between human and non-human ecosystems throughout Asia. In particular, coastal communities situated along shorelines form the basis of socio-cultural characteristics in relation to the local environment. Meanwhile, Asian coastal areas endure significant extractivist engineering, resource depletion and pollution under different socio-political movements, economic activities and urbanization (Noor and Abdul Maulud 2022; Subramanian 2012). These coexistences, their complexities and changes intrigue artists to explore and engage with coastal myths, memories and narratives. Through art they illuminate how coastal ecosystems are vibrant ecotones and contact zones (Coughlin 2016), where multispecies negotiate with intertidal rhythms, shifting materialities and climatic disasters. Applying an ecocritical approach to art history that considers local environmental histories (Braddock 2009) and the intricate entanglements of life and matter, this panel examines how modern and contemporary artists address both the historical and current intersections of land and sea. We aim to enrich the emerging field of interdisciplinary coastal art histories (Gapp 2023) and to explore questions including, but not limited to the following: How do coastal arts archive and problematize coastal histories and shifting materialities under the complex of Colonialism-Capitalism-Anthropocene? How can we (re)engage with art history on the Asian coasts that ecomediates environmental trauma, slow violence and marginalized local narratives? What are the distinct, suppressed, and fluid more-than-human narratives manifesting from the coastal arts in Asia?	Minna Valjakka	University of Helsinki	Animals;PI ants;Micro organisms; Water;Air;L and;Disast ers;Foods; Waste;Hum ans;Arts;

PS-11	Resilience to disaster and famine during the transition to a market economy: a study of historical contrasts between the Japanese and English environments in flood-prone local economies and societies	Paper session	Maybe	The Shinano and Chikuma river systems (formerly Kamishiojiri Village in the Ueda domain and Nishikanbara District, Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture), East Anglia in the UK and the Fen-edge area (Cambridge or formerly the Bishopric of Ely), which are the subject of our research group's long-standing study of contrasting Japanese and European village communities, have all suffered from floods and bad harvests since human settlement began. Yet they have been able to live with and on the basis of the natural environment that brought such disasters. It can be said that they lived in harmony with natural disasters. With the development of the market economy, they overcame repeated floods and bad harvests and developed resilience. This is closely linked to the nature of the community in each region. Of course, there have been difficult periods from time to time and in many places, but people have managed to get through them. This panel presents specific aspects of the natural environment, local economy and socio-economic organisation.	Motoyasu Takahashi	Ehime University	Disasters;L and;Water; Foods;Humans;	
PS-12	Japanese imperial forestry before and after 1945: Colonial and post-colonial history of scientific forestry, forestry administration, and environmentalism	Paper session	Yes	As seen in British India and Imperial Japan, imperial powers drove scientific forestry throughout Asia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They facilitated legal control of the "national forest," developed logging practices and conservation of trees, and influenced indigenous uses of the forest. After each region gained independence from the empire, some components of colonial forestry remained influential through legal systems, human resources, and forest science. Further, some significant regional differences were noted. Post-colonial understanding of the forestry history of each area differs depending on the standpoint of the former sovereign or colony and the position of forestry bureaucrats and inhabitants. Discrepancies between these understandings hinder further research on historical facts and make it difficult to share international understanding. This panel will examine the relationship between Japanese imperial forestry up to 1945 and post-colonial forestry in the former colonial areas of Japan, paying attention to historical and geographical differences between legal systems, professional foresters, and environmental perspectives. The post-colonial understanding of forestry in the colonial era from the viewpoints of both Japan and other Asian countries is also an important focus. With reference to Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and other countries, the panel seeks to re-situate Japanese imperial forestry in the context of environmental history.	Taisaku Komeie	Kyoto University	Plants;	
PS-13	Economy and environment	Paper session	Yes	Human economic development activities are closely related to the ecological environment, and various economic development activities, such as pastoralism, forestry, fisheries, and cotton industry, are inextricably linked to the development and evolution of the environment. The economy and the environment are a two-way process, with the economy having both positive and negative impacts on the environment, and vice versa. Exploring the role and influence of human beings between the economy and the environment is a very important proposition.	Lijun Fan	Jilin University	Animals;PI ants;Humans;Disasters;	
PS-14	The Trans-Asian History of the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey (MAPS) Project	Paper session	No	The Migratory Animal Pathological Survey (MAPS, 1963-1974) has become a hotspot for environmental historians and historians of science, especially those who are interested in the rise of avian zoonosis research and bird conservation in East Asia, including Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. With the aim of studying the migration of birds and their relationship to the dispersion of zoonotic diseases, MAPS was a massive bird-banding project across several Asian countries. Because of the project's US military-initiated nature, previous scholarship has often been US-centered when explaining its origin, considering its main actors, and attributing its outcomes. Papers in this panel collectively decentralize and complicate this US-centered picture by locating MAPS within Malayan-Malaysian, Taiwanese, and North and South Korean contexts, focusing on trans-Asian interactions. Through the trans-Asian history of MAPS, the papers jointly call upon scholars to revisit the Asian history of ornithology and bird conservation from a trans-Asian perspective.	Jaehwan Hyun	Pusan National University	Animals;Microorganisms;Humans;Conservation;	

PS-15	Rivers, Societies, and States in Asia	Paper session	Yes	Scholars of Asian Studies have explored the impact of humans on the natural world and, conversely, the impact of the environment on the human world through ecological, political, socio-economic, and cultural lenses. Delving further into this inquiry, this panel examines the dynamic relations between Asian societies, states, and rivers that flow from massifs to seas and deserts. It focuses on the agency of rivers, which has been largely overlooked in the histories of agricultural states and societies across Asia, in transforming communities, institutions, systems, and ideas. Additionally, this panel understands rivers as networks that connect different natural and human systems across regional, national, and international settings. It employs a transregional approach to capture and compare the roles played by specific rivers that often traverse diverse cultural and political domains. With an emphasis on the historical "voices" of rivers, each paper in this panel provides a case study that analyzes how the interaction between rivers, communities, and authorities structured local societies, changed regional politics, and shaped state institutions over time. In doing so, this panel presents a comparative history of Asian rivers and challenges existing geo-ecological, socio-political, and ethno-cultural boundaries.	Gyatso Marnyi	Yale University	Water;	
PS-16	Adapting Commons to Modernity	Paper session	Yes	Commons, community-based resource management regimes, have either been interpreted as remnants of a premodern form of resource management or recently, been rediscovered as "traditional" forms of ecologically sustainable resource stewardship. Accordingly, modern histories of commons have been written as histories of dismantling and resistance under the pressure of modern institutions, individual property and capitalism. However, commoning was one of the dominant resource management practices everywhere on the globe until the early modern period and proved remarkably resilient, despite of governmental forces trying to dismantle common property and management structures, with many examples found especially in Asia. Thus, this panel explores how commons were able to persist during the rise of market-oriented production and the modernization of property law in the early modern and modern periods. It asks what adaptation strategies the commoners used and how these manifested in changes of resource governance and interactions with the environment. In recent years, historical studies on commons inspired by Elinor Ostrom's Governing the Commons (1990) have gained popularity. Although they provide valuable understandings of the connections between governance and the nature of the governed resources, they often tend to concentrate on the inner workings of commons and the regulations that led to successful resource management regimes. Therefore, this panel aims to expand the perspective by exploring commons in their broader context of governmental institutions and economic networks, welcoming contributions from everywhere on commons adapting and transforming in reaction to institutional, legal, economic, and environmental changes in both the early modern and modern period.	Julia Mariko Jacoby	University of Duisburg-Essen	Water;Land; Foods;Humans;Plants;Animals; Commons;	

PS-17	Tourism flows, environmental degradation and social dilemmas	Paper session	Yes	<p>In the last decade, "overtourism" identified as an unbearable massification of tourism concentrated on some "hotspots", has emerged as urgent in the debate. The concept of overtourism has developed mixing a sum of considerations: disturbances of the daily life of the inhabitants especially in certain areas, environmental degradation, pressure on the value of land and consumer prices, potential devaluation of the international image of the the hotspots and expansion of tourism in new neighbourhoods through new forms of accommodation such as AirBnB.</p> <p>From an environmental point of view, the strong development of tourist flows has created high pressures on natural resources: greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector, a significant increase in water withdrawals, and increasing waste production. But the pressures also affect the social and cultural dimension of the environments involved in tourism.</p> <p>In recent times, unexpectedly, tourism has fed fears about the circulation of diseases that, after the SarsCov02 epidemic, have become an overexposed subject in the media. This has made it become a kind of consumption-sign of our time, a real dilemma: if flows are interrupted the economy enters into crisis, if they continue to increase the scale of environmental and social problems will become more and more extensive.</p> <p>This panel aims to propose a comparative approach to analyze the impacts of tourism with particular reference to Asia and Europe.</p>	Federico Paolini	University of Macerata	Humans;	
PS-18	Altered Ecologies, Extracted Oceans: Environmental Histories of Licit and Illicit Fishing in the Asia-Pacific	Paper session	Yes	<p>The seemingly infinite volume of the Pacific Ocean has been both testing ground and site of developmental and economic extraction for many Asia-Pacific states. Japan, Korea, Taiwan, PRC China, the Philippines and the ocean's many island nations have at least part of their histories rooted in the water and currents of the Pacific. The nineteenth century saw imperial expansion and colonisation across the ocean, the twentieth century saw technological and statistical developments make Pacific watery spaces knowable and quantifiable, and the twenty first century has seen the ocean again become a geo-political frontline. Throughout these past centuries as states sought to demonstrate power, legislative legitimacy, authority, and capability across the Pacific, other more liminal and illicit forces have been at play. Just as there are extensive histories of state and corporate enterprise engaging in seemingly rational and scientific extraction of the goods, lives and resources of the sea, so there are less frequently encountered environmental histories and legacies of both opportunistic and planned semi-formal/illicit fishing and maritime activity in the Asia-Pacific. In particular this panel encounters watery histories of poaching and pilfering at sea on behalf of North Korea, and the impact such activities have had on both Japan and the Soviet Union/Russian Federation; the fishing histories of Taiwan made complex by that nation's complicated geo-political relationships; and the encounters between Japanese and American fisheries scientists on the high seas, encounters which would drive industrialisation of maritime extraction during the Cold War.</p>	Robert Winstanley-Chesters	University of Edinburgh and University of Leeds	Water;Animals;Plants;Humans;	

PS-19	Water Management and Water Disasters in Modern China	Paper session	No	<p>A significant portion of China's population has historically lived near water systems like seas, rivers, lakes, and marshes. Faced with irregular rainfall, water management—known as "Shuili" (水利), including irrigation and flood control—became essential for both social stability and governance. However, annual rainfall fluctuations consistently threatened people's welfare, causing water disasters such as droughts and floods. How did people manage to produce and sustain their livelihoods in these watersheds? Under what circumstances, and in what ways, did the risks in such environments surpass critical thresholds and manifest as water disasters? How did people's measures and responses to water disasters alter the environment itself, and in turn, how did these changes impact the ways in which people utilized water resources? To explore these questions concerning late 19th to mid-20th century China, when it was exposed to modern science and technology, this session addresses two interrelated tasks.</p> <p>First, it aims to historically reconstruct the natural environment of the period using meteorological, hydrological, and spatial databases, along with analytical methods. A key goal is to tackle the methodological challenges of understanding historical water and climate patterns.</p> <p>Second, against this environmental backdrop, the session seeks to uncover regional and local variations in how communities responded to hydrological risks and crises through institutions, organizations, policies, and technologies. With a more nuanced understanding of water management and disasters in China, the session also invites scholars from other parts of Monsoon Asia to engage in comparative studies through</p>	Tomoko SHIROYAMA	University of Tokyo	Water;	
PS-20	An Asian Perspective on Environmental Aesthetics and Artistic Social Practice: Satoyama-Satoumi, Artivism and Sustainability	Paper session	Maybe	<p>This panel examines histories of artistic social practices in Japan, Taiwan, and Southeast Asia, focusing on participatory projects and festivals that highlight the concepts of satoyama-satoumi (the relationship between humans and nature), artivism, and sustainability. This panel contributes to alternative artistic visions of environmental awareness, both past and present in Asia. Since the 1990s, numerous art projects have emerged outside traditional museums and galleries in Asia, emphasizing a process-based approach that connects art with a broader audience. Since the 2000's, the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale and since 2010 the Setouchi Triennale plays a pivotal role in bringing together artists and local communities to rejuvenate environmental aesthetics and placemaking in rural areas. Taiwan, facing similar sociocultural dynamics such as urbanization, an aging population, and the fever of localization and internationalization in the post-Martial Law era, has looked to Japan's model of artistic social practice for inspiration. Since the 2010's, Taiwanese curators have collaborated with interdisciplinary artists and local communities to create projects and art festivals that foster sustained artistic social practices. In Southeast Asia, there are similar endeavors undertaken by artists. These practices incorporate forums, educational activities, and advocacy for environmental issues, establishing an Asian approach to social practice in contemporary art that addresses land, ocean, as well as human and more-than-human relationships. By mapping the evolution of contemporary artistic social practices and exploring environmental aesthetics in Asia, this panel aims to reveal regional empathy, dialogues, and contrasting experiences, providing inspiration for historians and other scholars.</p>	Wei Hsiu Tung	National University of Tainan	Plants;Water;Land;Humans;	

PS-21	Oceanic Environmental History of the Indian Ocean since the sixteenth Century	Paper session	Yes	<p>This panel session provides a forum to discuss maritime links between humans and nature in the Indian Ocean since the sixteenth century. The Indian Ocean has been a busy place for ship traffic from ancient times, and it has connected Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia and East Africa, centering on the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. People, goods and information have flowed back and forth, then deepening cross-cultural exchanges. Furthermore, since the sixteenth century, with the arrival of Europeans, maritime activities in the Indian Ocean have dramatically increased over time. In addition, maritime historians cannot overlook a fact that a huge number of historical materials remain since the sixteenth century. This present-day archival situation allows maritime historians for precise and empirical research into a full set of oceanic environmental history of the Indian Ocean. How were people concerned with the Indian Ocean with facing several environmental constraints? How did people attempt to overcome these constraints? How did people understand and use various environmental conditions in the Indian Ocean such as ocean currents, seasonal wind fluctuations known as monsoons, and even cyclones? Possible examples include the impacts of seasonal fluctuations in shipping and fishing, and disasters caused by cyclones, tsunamis and so on. In this way, this panel session contributes to comprehensive understanding of empirical studies on such historical cases, and explores directions of future research in terms of oceanic environmental historiography.</p>	Ryuto Shimada	The University of Tokyo	Humans;Water;Air;Disasters;Ocean;	
PS-22	Navigating the Shallow and Deep-Time Temporalities of Asian River Histories	Paper session	Yes	<p>Although not always immediately evident, all human-river relationships operate within temporal framings. These temporalities are evident in historical sources, and the temporal framings we adopt as historians shape the river histories we write. Some temporal understandings reflect long-standing social contracts; communities' river views extend over generations, requiring them to manage the rivers as endowments for the future. Others represent the modernist, short-temporality reconstruction of rivers as resources to be exploited now. Yet others, like "deep time," are newer temporal constructs based on cutting-edge, contemporary Earth sciences that, paradoxically, extend our river temporalities far beyond human memories, contracting humans' role in river histories and reframing our temporarily limited attempts to exploit them. This panel will explore the relationship between the time scales we adopt and our construction of river histories. It will ask how deep-time, endowment, and resource approaches to rivers' histories change our understanding of them and how historicizing these frameworks themselves could change our relationship to these temporalities and rivers.</p>	Ruth Gamble	La Trobe University	Water;	

PS-23	Forests and Humans in the Twentieth-Century Korean Environment	Paper session	No	<p>In the historiography of Korean environment, one of the least investigated areas is the changing relationship between forests and people. In premodern period, forests were an integral part of the ecology intertwined with the agricultural society of the Korean peninsula, which provided organic fertilizer, building and craft materials, wild fruits, medicine, fur, protein, and, most importantly, fuel. Forests were also where peasants reunited with their ancestors when they demised. To put it poetically, premodern Koreans were fed by forest and returned to it when they died. This cycle was essentially "organic," much as historian Richard White aptly describes the relationship between Columbia River and indigenous people.</p> <p>What has also received little scholarly attention is how the arrival of capitalism altered the organic relationship between forests and Koreans. As historian Joachim Radkau famously argued, state bureaucracies in early modern Europe shifted the goal of forestry from peasant survival to state profit. Similarly, under colonial rule in Korea, state forestry shifted its focus to timber production, situating the Korean forest as an essential part of commercial forests in the empire. Meanwhile, in post-1945 period, U.S. state agencies aimed to protect South Korean forests by promoting inter-Asian timber trade and implementing Western forestry science.</p> <p>With these considerations, this panel aims to examine how the relationship between people and forests on the Korean peninsula has changed under colonial rule and U.S. hegemony in a trans-Asian context. In doing so, this panel proposes to illuminate two understudied aspects: first, the place of the Korean forests in twentieth-century transnational capitalism and second, the contested interaction between empires.</p>	Jaeyoung Ha	University of California	Plants;	
PS-24	Rediscovering Animals: The Human-Animal Interaction under Epochal Changes in China	Paper session	Yes	<p>China's millennia-long history of human-animal interaction encompasses a spectrum of roles that animals have played—from loyal work companions and sources of natural fear to auspicious symbols deeply embedded in cultural traditions. Historical records vividly document these relationships, reflecting a society in which animals were integral to daily life and agricultural practices. However, since the mid-19th century, China has experienced profound changes due to urbanization and industrialization. These transformations have redefined traditional interactions, particularly in rural areas where animals once held central roles. The introduction of Western knowledge and concepts further altered institutional structures and cultural ideologies, leading to subtle yet significant shifts in how animals are perceived and treated. In response to these changes, the panel titled "Rediscovering Animals: The Human-Animal Interaction under Epochal Changes in China" examines the evolving dynamics of human-animal relationships in contemporary China. The panel encompasses five diverse and interrelated research topics: human-tiger interactions, the beekeeping industry, the fur trade, the role of zoos, and animal welfare. Each topic explores different facets of how epochal changes have impacted cultural attitudes and practices concerning animals. By integrating these subjects into a single panel, the discussion provides a comprehensive view of how modernization and social transformation are reshaping China's historical and cultural connections with animals. This approach highlights both the continuity and change in human-animal interactions, offering insights into how traditional practices are adapting to the pressures and opportunities of the modern era.</p>	Cao Zhihong	University of Chinese Academy of Sciences	Animals; Humans;	

PS-25	Carbon History, Bio Fuels and Energy Politics in 20th c. Southeast Asia	Paper session	No	Climate change and specifically the carbon cycle is a growing concern worldwide, but achieving zero-carbon goals and or negative carbon (sequestration) requires a more detailed understanding of the modern carbon past. Shifts between the use of biofuels and fossil fuels in 20th century Southeast Asia were deeply political and had wide geographic peripheries stretching to Japan, China and global energy markets. Every choice, whether development of charcoal biofuels or offshore oil and gas, had social, political and geographical consequences. The five papers in this session explore the environmental history of carbon politics in different places, times and energy/fuel regimes.	David Biggs	University of California	Animals;PIants;Air;Land;Water;Disasters;Foods;Waste;Humans;Microorganisms;Main focus is ENERGY and CARBON;	
PS-26	Changes in local resource management and use in Bangladesh	Paper session	Maybe	People have lived in ways adapted to the ecological and environmental conditions of Bangladesh. A wide range of resources have been used, including land, surface water, groundwater and naturally growing and man-made plants. These resources have supported people's livelihoods, economic activities and social life. People have developed embodied knowledge, indigenous technical knowledge and (tacit) rules for the management and use of these resources, often embedded in local customs, religious practices, social structures and norms. In recent years, however, such local resource management and use systems and the activities of people based on them have been changing as a result of modernisation, urbanisation, development, integration into global capitalism and climate change. These changes have been accompanied by environmental degradation, enclosure of resources, changes in nature-human relations, and the strengthening or appropriation of local power structures and social inequalities. First, this panel will explore local resource management and use, and the knowledge and rules associated with it, in terms of the engagement of different actors with the resource. Secondly, it will look at changes in local resource management and use, and the environmental and social consequences of these changes, from a multi-scale perspective. In doing so, the panel will examine how local resource management and use and its changes affect the ecological environment and local communities, and discuss how sustainable and equitable resource management and environmental policies can be developed.	Ai Sugie	Kyoto University	Plants;Land;Water;Humans;	

PS-27	Exploring the relation between the local knowledge and the modern knowledge in the arid and the semiarid areas of Asia and Africa	Paper session	No	<p>This panel explores how the local knowledge in the arid and the semiarid areas of Asia and Africa was related to the modern knowledge in the development of irrigation and agrarian society from the late nineteenth century to the twentieth century. This panel focuses on Egypt in North Africa, the Deccan Plateau (Western part of India) in South Asia, Uzbekistan in Central Asia and North China in East Asia, all of which are in the arid and the semiarid areas of Asia and Africa. Historically, these areas saw the natural disasters mainly caused by draughts. In these areas, therefore, the local knowledge about effective reservation and use of water in an agrarian society was advanced respectively. In the expansion of econo-political powers of Western countries, the modern knowledge based on the development of scientific technology in the nineteenth-century Western countries was applied to these areas as solutions to the natural disasters. However, this modern knowledge was not always applied there exclusively. Rather, the above-mentioned local knowledge in these areas played a crucial role in the process for controlling the natural disasters. Therefore, this panel, in which each speaker analyzes its role in these areas, aims to deconstruct the dichotomy between the local knowledge and the modern knowledge and to consider the actual relation between these two in Asia and Africa. By focusing on different areas in the same climate zone, furthermore, this panel explores how differently the local knowledge worked as solutions to the same natural disaster.</p>	Michihiro Ogawa	The University of Tokyo	Water;Disasters;	
PS-28	Enhancing Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness in Coastal Bangladesh	Paper session	Yes	<p>A significant number of people live in coastal areas around the world. Bangladesh is one of the countries where these coastal communities are most at risk from current and foreseeable climate change. Coastal inhabitants generally depend heavily on their surrounding land and the sea. Therefore, studies must focus on household and community levels to understand the ground reality, with the aim of generalizing key issues such as household-level resilience. The existing patriarchal system in remote areas also requires a gender analysis. Disaster risk assessment needs to be addressed to enhance existing livelihoods. As the livelihoods of coastal people depend on surrounding surface water, there is also a need to address the long-term adjustments and key challenges they face to live with water. The south-eastern coastal area of Bangladesh is hilly, with numerous indigenous people living there. A comparison between the adaptation strategies of people in plain coastal lands and hilly areas, in relation to social capital, should be considered. The access to vast datasets nowadays demands machine learning-based analysis to develop climate change models that may predict future vulnerabilities. Such predictive models are necessary for identifying vulnerabilities and enhancing disaster preparedness and response strategies. The proposed studies are important for understanding resource allocation, disaster readiness, and planning timely responses. Ultimately, this will significantly decrease the susceptibility of the area to disasters, offering a hopeful stance for disaster management in South and South-East Asia.</p>	Nazmul Huda	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	Water;Disasters;Humans;	

PS-29	Hydro-Nationalism in South Asia: An Ecological Dimension of Transboundary Water-sharing Disputes	Paper session	Yes	Human creativity and endeavour have advanced human civilisation and culture through triumphant manoeuvring of the Earth's natural resources since immemorial. The ingenuity and skill of human beings in the name of progress and economic development worldwide have always become threats to maintaining the required equilibrium of nature. The present work explores the political economy of hydro-nationalism based on the water-sharing issue between the two friendly states of South Asia- India and Bangladesh. In this connection the use of the Ganges River has been taken as the case study. The paper investigates the techno-political and ecological dimension of India-Bangladesh water-sharing disputes and elaborates on how national interests dominate the policies for safeguarding national power and prestige, national identity and economic advancement. Despite similarities in histories, geographies, and politics, India and Bangladesh share many natural resources despite their independent territory. Such a situation is highly delicate to the flow of resources, such as rivers, where demarcation is difficult. Water sharing of the Ganges, the Brahmaputra, and the Meghna could not be stable between Bangladesh and India despite having a long history of negotiation. A gradual shift has been observed over the years. It is assumed that this shift is influenced by recent technological developments that have identified inherent causes of problems vis-à-vis the growing list of environmental problems and their associated risks to human beings.	Md. Abdus Samad	Jagannath University	Water;Disasters;Humans;Land;Animals;Plants;	
PS-30	'Altered Earth' in Asia: rivers	Paper session	Yes	Following Julia Adeney Thomas' edited "Altered Earth: Getting the Anthropocene Right," the AAEH is considering two initiatives. One is to provide a platform for a sustained showcase of short, visual reports of changes in individual areas of the world, particularly from Asia, that are primarily affecting climate change. The other is to publish new works on specific subjects. For example, when looking at rivers, what and when have there been major changes, or how do we think about the current situation where flooding is still constant or, rather, the damage is increasing, even though there has been massive progress on riverbank protection works? Or, it seems that in many cases we do not even know each other about the reality and meaning of the changes when we look at Asia as a whole. How should we think about diverse rivers in terms of environmental history? I look forward to a wide range of reports.	Satoshi Murayama	Kagawa University	Water;Land;Disasters;	
PS-31	Environmental Protection in Northeast China	Paper session	Yes	Northeast China is rich in environmental resources and has produced a series of protection systems that constitute the environmental protection of Northeast China. There are five papers in this group, which deal with the promotion of cotton industry in modern Northeast China, environmental protection in the Songhua River Basin and the causes, characteristics and impacts of natural disasters, marine environmental changes and fishery development in southern Liaoning, and the impacts of changes in pastoralism in modern Northeast China on economic development. The group covered topics such as plants, animals, water and disasters, and explored environmental protection in Northeast China from various aspects.	Haijian Teng	LiaoNing University	Animals;Plants;Water;Disasters;Humans;	

PS-32	Altered Natures, Environmental changes: Managing and Extracting Natural Resources in French Indochina and Cold War Vietnam	Paper session	Maybe	<p>French Indochina (now Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos) encompassed a diversity of environments, from high, rugged mountains of upper Tonkin to low-lying, regularly flooded marshes of the Mekong Delta. Across these biomes, local peoples contended with colonial French administrators and their collaborators for control of natural resources like agricultural crops, wildlife/fishes, and mineral resources. As local ways of knowing clashed against extractive colonial practices, actors on all sides holistically assembled a way of understanding and using these environments that involved negotiating nature. The intrusion of colonial 'experts', administrators, and entrepreneurs into these regions resulted in new modes of extraction, ultimately reshaping how Vietnam's natures were managed. After the end of French colonial rule in 1955, postcolonial successor states like the Republic of Vietnam in the south and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in the north often continued working with colonial infrastructure and knowledges, extending the influence of colonial policies into the postcolonial period.</p> <p>Border spaces like the valleys between Northern Vietnam and the Chinese Province of Yunnan, or the uninhabited but contested Paracel and Spratly Islands of the South China Sea, proved especially difficult for state actors to manage, and therefore, exploit. In these instances, the state power—both pre and post-colonial—and those seeking to profit from extracted materials or introduced agricultural and aquacultural products, enlisted local laborers whose knowledge of these natures proved invaluable to state-making projects. Impacts on local peoples, both at the time and longitudinally, have had complicated histories since colonial meddling extraction schemes.</p>	Sean Keenan	University of California	Animals;Plants;Water;Land;Humans;	
PS-33	Studies in Environmental Thought	Paper session	Yes	<p>Environmental thought is one of the main contents of the study of environmental history, and in modern times it has spread widely and had a far-reaching impact in Asia. There are four papers in this group, discussing the spreading path and actual influence of Japanese forest policy ideas in Northeast China during the late Qing and Republican periods, the change and influence of the concept of forest protection in Northeast China at the end of the 19th century, the evolution of the cognition of the Rehe fossils, and Dugasev's investigation of the mining industry in Asia, which individually reflect the spread of environmental ideas in Asia in the modern era, and embody an important innovation of the cognition of the environment, which has far-reaching influence on environmental exploitation and utilization in many countries in Asia in the modern era. These individual studies reflect the spread of modern environmental thought in Asia, reflect important innovations in environmental perception, and have had a profound impact on the development and utilization of the environment in many Asian countries in recent times, laying the groundwork for the development of contemporary environmental protection systems and environmental thought.</p>	Lijun Fan	Jilin University	Plants;Land;Humans;Water;Animals;	
PS-34	Rice cultivation under the changing earth and society	Paper session	Yes	<p>Rice cultivation is dominant in most of the East, Southeast and South Asian society. This is facilitated by certain climatic conditions that support the rice cultivation. Rice cultivation has important relevance to the greenhouse gas concentration through the carbon cycle and emissions of methane and nitrous oxide. Human population and its geographical distribution have been interacted with development of rice cultivation technology and social structure. Rice cultivation depends on abundant water resource. So, it plays important role in the water cycle on the global earth surface. Rice cultivation is not confined only in Asian region but found in European and American Continents associated with the climate pattern. Thus, through the discussion on different aspects of rice cultivation, this panel will discover new historical and future perspectives of rice cultivation under the changing earth and society.</p>	Toru Terao	Kagawa University	Plants;Air;Land;Food;Humans;	

PS-35	Landscapes from perspectives of the material cycle	Paper session	Yes	<p>The landscape spanning both the land and ocean plays living spaces for human, animals, plants and microbes. Rivers and the air connect the land and ocean through biogeochemical cycle and abiotic substances such as industrial and household wastes. Biogeochemical materials like nitrogen and phosphorus have been intrinsic elements for biotope over the land and ocean in agriculture and fisheries. We further violate the planetary boundary in the biochemical material flow. However, from the historical view, we can see that such material cycles had been parts of the nature system, and have been developed with the history of landscape. Here, we would like to consider the problem by drawing on the landscape of some regions with specific characteristics (including the Sanuki region and Seto-Inland Sea). In the Seto-Inland Sea, eutrophication and red tides had been social issues after the modernization after the postwar high economic growth period. Our society tried to solve this by reduction of nitrogen emission from the humanosphere. However, now it leads to another problem of low productivity of the Seto-Inland Sea. Thus, our experience shows that reductionism to the behavior of chemical elements does not solve the problem. The diversity of species and seeds in both marine and terrestrial environments is a condition for the establishment of landscape with rich living spaces in the real environment, and this is one of the overall and hypothetical perspectives of this panel.</p>	Toru Terao	Kagawa University	Animals;PIants;Microorganisms;Water;Air;Land;Foods;Waste;Humans;
PS-36	The cultural heritage value of Red Flag Canal and the introduction of urban sustainable development thought	Paper session	Yes	<p>As a great water conservancy project in China's modern history, the Red Flag Canal is not only a symbol of the people's hard work and self-reliance under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, but also an important carrier of the Chinese national spirit. Its unique cultural heritage value is not only reflected in the rational, perceptual and practical aspects, but also provides valuable inspiration for the sustainable development of modern cities. The relationship between heritage and sustainable development is based on the cognitive transmission of heritage value. We try to introduce the idea of urban sustainable development into the study of the Red Flag Canal cultural heritage, and make a comparative study from other world-class water conservancy heritage, in order to expand and enhance the value of the Red Flag Canal heritage and provide a new perspective for its cultural heritage protection.</p>	Meng Jia	China Architecture Design & Research Group	Water;Land;Humans;
PS-37	Plastic history in Anthropocene: past, present and future	Paper session	Yes	<p>Plastic is an organic polymer compound artificially synthesized from petroleum. It is a lightweight, durable, and convenient solid material that can be molded into various shapes. It is also called synthetic resin. Its origin dates back to 1835, and it is a substance that can be a symbol of modernization since the Industrial Revolution. Mass production through the development of science and technology has given rise to mass consumption, which has contributed to the development of humanity and cities, and the increase in the world population. However, on the other hand, the appearance of such convenient artificial substances, the energy consumption required to manufacture and dispose of things, and the carbon emissions from combustion have come to be as negative factors that hinder the development of humanity, such as climate change like global warming and environmental pollutions. The impact of plastic on the ecosystem and the deterioration of the landscape are exactly counterattacks against humanity, and the question is how humanity, which has created a convenient society, will build a society in which it coexists with plastic in the future. Just like fossils remaining in the strata, it is necessary to recognize the fact that plastic also remains in the strata. This is the Anthropocene.</p> <p>This panel will focus on plastics, sharing the current state of the pollution and discussing measures that both individuals and society can take to promote the future production, recovery, reuse, and coexistence of plastics from the perspective of environmental history.</p>	Masahide Ishizuka	Kagawa University	Water;Waste;Humans;

PS-38	Insects and Humans in the Environment	Paper session	Yes	Insects are the most species-rich taxon on Earth. Insects are everywhere on all continents. However, humans are also a ubiquitous species on the planet, and humans and insects have various relationships. Insects, such as agricultural pests, mosquitoes, and flies, can be harmful to humans, while others, such as silkworms and honeybees, can be beneficial. However, if we overcome the anthropocentric view, these insects should be considered to have symbiotic relationships with human. This session will discuss the history of insects and humans in Asia and explore a multi-species narrative of environmental history.	Akihisa Setoguchi	Kyoto University	Animals;	
PS-39	Imagining Habitability in the East Asian Anthropocene	Paper session	Yes	This panel is organized to explore and discuss ways to illustrate habitability in the Anthropocene, considering both human and non-human perspectives. In March 2024, the International Union of Geological Sciences and the International Commission on Stratigraphy rejected the proposal to officially recognize the Anthropocene as a geological era. However, the concept of the Anthropocene "will remain an invaluable descriptor of human impact on the Earth system." Although, technically, we are still living in the Holocene, the current conditions of the planet call for a reimagining of our relationship with it and our future on it. As Dipesh Chakrabarty pointed out in his 2019 paper, the concept of habitability, an alternative framework and way of thinking to sustainability, allows us to imagine not just the "globe" but the "planet." This shift decentralizes human temporality and status within Anthropocene discourse. This panel explores these alternative possibilities for imagining the Earth, drawing from case studies across diverse disciplines. Additionally, the panel will examine how the concept of habitability can be integrated into Anthropocene pedagogy and curricula. By focusing on habitability within the context of the Anthropocene, this panel aims to contribute to and expand the Anthropocene discourse in East Asia.	Buhm Soon Park	KAIST	Plants;Animals;Land;Water;Disasters;Humans;Waste;	
PS-40	The Big and the Small: Intertwines Between Infrastructures, Humans, and Non-Humans	Paper session	Yes	Infrastructures are often celebrated as monumental engineering and technological achievements. However, this perspective tends to overshadow the intricate and often hidden histories that underpin these grand spectacles. This panel seeks to uncover and review these hidden narratives, emphasizing the complex interplay between infrastructures, humans, and non-humans. By doing so, we aim to challenge the conventional understanding of infrastructure as merely a technical endeavor and highlight its broader social, cultural, and environmental implications. We invite contributions from the field of infrastructure studies, with a particular focus on water-related infrastructures such as water resource management, irrigation systems, and disaster mitigation efforts. However, submissions are not limited to these areas. We welcome studies that explore various types of infrastructures and their multifaceted impacts. This panel encourages the examination of both human and non-human actors involved in the creation, maintenance, and transformation of infrastructures. By considering a diverse range of actors, we aim to provide a more holistic understanding of the processes and dynamics at play. We are particularly interested in case studies from diverse contexts that illustrate the complex relationships between infrastructures and their surrounding environments. These case studies should highlight the often-overlooked aspects of infrastructure development and reveal the hidden stories that contribute to our understanding of these systems. Through this panel, we hope to foster a deeper appreciation of the intertwined nature of infrastructures, humans, and non-humans, and to promote a more nuanced perspective on the histories and impacts of infrastructural development.	Hsin-Hua Chiang	National Pingtung University	Water;Animals;Disasters;	

PS-41	Trans-boundary River basins : An exploration of nature and culture	Paper session	Yes	Rivers connect land and sea. Water, climate, and other natural and cultural agents are usually transferred along the course of rivers. The Brahmaputra-Barak river basin, is a large contiguous transboundary area covering five countries, Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, China and Myanmar. Besides being a part of the Indo-Myanmar biological hotspot, it is well known that upper catchment receives large amount of rain, which causes severe floods in India's North East region and also Bangladesh due to massive river flow in the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. Air flows, on the other hand, carry large amounts of water vapour from the Bay of Bengal to the entire basin, bringing torrential rainfall to the upper catchment. Before the World War II, the border between India and Bangladesh did not exist and hence socio-cultural exchanges were not hindered. With the emergence of the political boundary between India and the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) during the partition of India, material and cultural exchanges in the region seemed to have ceased. Each river basin has its own history mosaiced by materials, cultures and religions for ages but abruptly changed with man made political boundaries. Though the physical landscape interactions remained unaltered, the socio-cultural and religious milieu was modified at a very fast pace. Precisely there is a renewed interest for understanding how human interactions, governance and management in one of the important trans-boundary regions of the world is taking place. This panel will look at diversity of landscapes in the region in terms of challenges in several sectors amidst rapidly changing geo-political alignments and climate change scenarios.	Hiambok Jones Syiemlieh	North Eastern Hill University	Water;Land; Air;Disasters;	
PS-42	Exploring Human-Nonhuman Relationships in Korean History	Paper session	Yes	As a scholarly response to the Anthropocene, climate and ecological crises, Discussions on posthumanism and human-nonhuman relations increasingly being discussed. The research in this panel aims to reflect on the aspects of human civilization that have led to the crisis by historically exploring the relationship between humans and non-humans. As there is still a lack of historical research on human-animal/plant relationships in Korean academia, these studies will stimulate research in this area. The titles of each presentation are as follows: First, "The Ecology and Economics of "Mustelidae (Weasel)" Family Animals in Joseon Dynasty". Second, "Wildlife under the Lens of Modernity: Recreational Hunting and Human-Animal Relationships in Colonial Korea". Third, "From a symbol of Korea to a symbol of extinction: Relationships between the Korean Fir (Abies koreana), (non)humans, and Climate". Given the lack of historical research on human-animal/plant relationships in Korean academia, these studies will shed new light and stimulate further research in this field. One additional researcher and one Commentator will be added.	Tae-woo Ko	Seoul National University	Animals;PI ants;Humans;climate;	
PS-43	History of Food and Environment in Asia	Paper session	Maybe	The contemporary history of food in Asia is discussed and juxtaposed with the history of environmental change and destruction. For example, people in Japan stopped eating tuna after the Daigo Fukuryu Maru fishing boat was exposed to radiation from postwar hydrogen bomb tests in the Marshall Islands. Or the increase in the number of people eating bananas for breakfast in Japan led to the proliferation of plantations on the Mindanao Island in the Philippines, where pesticide contamination was observed. I would like to explore the possibilities of a contemporary history of food through these themes.	Tatsushi Fujihara	Kyoto University	Foods;	

Roundtable

Panel ID	Panel Title	Panel Type	Call for Papers	Contents Description	Convenor	Affiliation	Topics	Affiliation
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RT-01	Altered Earth in Asia (AEA): visualising the invisible	Roundtable	Yes	Climate change, with its diverse and complex developments, continues to destroy the Living Spaces of many people and all forms of life. The planet continues to change dramatically. Moreover, it is not only climate change. Natural diversity is also a source of conflict in human societies. The destruction of Living Spaces is therefore even more serious. We need to continue to hear the screams from local sites across Asia. We need to learn from each other, how we can sustain our own lives and become aware of all life forms around us and build mutualistic relationships with those that we cannot feel at a distance. Furthermore, the existence of historical sources is essential for the study of history to be established as a discipline. Living Spaces in Crisis, as in times of war, will be biased towards historical sources themselves. Alternatively, there may be cases where no information is available at all. This may be the case even if they are not at war. It is necessary to devise ways to make the invisible visible. We have such a plan in mind as a project of AAEH and look forward to hearing from many directions on the topic.	Satoshi Murayama	Kagawa University	Disasters;Land;Water;Humans;Plants;Animals;Microorganisms;Air;Foods;Waste;	
RT-02	Contested Environments: A Roundtable Discussion on Science, Expertise, and Environmental Change in Asia and Its Waters	Roundtable	Yes	This panel seeks to offer a venue for participants to learn about the latest research into contested environments and an opportunity to discuss important issues--including climate change, geopolitical challenges, and other pressing concerns--relevant to Asia in its largest possible definition. The concept "contested environments" should be understood broadly, to include both physical spaces where conflicting ideas or actions impact the material environment and intellectual spaces where differing ideas about human-nature relationships are discussed and debated. Ideally, panelists will include analysis of changing approaches to and valuations of science and expertise influence decision-making with regard to environmental questions. The panel also encourages broad representation both geographically and chronologically, so that we can learn about how these developments are affecting Asia, widely defined, and its surrounding waters.	Lisa M. Brady	Boise State University	Water;Land;	
RT-03	Changing landscape in a long term: people flow, water flow	Roundtable	Yes	Landscapes, which are the result of the response between humans and nature, are very valuable objects of consideration in terms of environmental history, partly because they are tangible, concrete objects. On the other hand, because of its concreteness, the diverse historical contexts behind it are sometimes lost. Therefore, in this Roundtable with field study, we focus on the huge wooden indoors waterwheel, Takahara Waterwheel (https://takaharasuisha.com), which has been designated as a national tangible cultural property in Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture. This man-made structure, which has its origins in the late Edo period, draw river water into the house and used the water power to mill rice, wheat and soba. Located in a low-lying water playground in Takamatsu City, this water mill is an epoch-making structure that can be turned by a small amount of water power in the low rainfall areas of the Seto Inland Sea. It is highly valuable as an industrial archaeological heritage. However, on the other hand, due to the reality of the current food supply, the work has no longer economic value. Japan is still a predominantly car-based people-flow society. Roads and paths are still mainly built for cars, and the water flow of the watermill is now in danger of being disrupted. A four-lane road with a large viaduct is under construction, which will fragment the watercourse and isolate this watermill. What can environmental historians think and do here? We want to bring together Asian knowledge from the wider world.	Satoshi Murayama	Kagawa University	Plants;Water;Land;Foods;Humans;	

RT-04	Evolving Adaptions to Policy Transfer of the River Chief System in China, 2007-present	Roundtable	Yes	China has faced a growing issue of polluted water in its lakes, rivers and minor waterways, which threatens its ability to supply the population with clean drinking water. Many local decision-makers have attributed the situation regarding water pollution to both policy pushes for economic development at national/local levels and some practical complexities surrounding the governing structures associated with water management. The River Chief System (RCS) has involved an experimental pattern of policy learning, designed for effective water governance in China, evolving from a local provisional policy to a nationwide strategy since its launch 2007 at Wuxi, Jiangsu to resolve its blue-algae breakout in Taihu Lake. The RCS has not only facilitated spatial transfer across governance entities, but also achieved conceptual spill-over effects across local governance contexts, giving rise to other forms of the Chief System (N-Chief System), e.g., the Lake Chief System and Forest Chief System. This panel will explore the ways in which the ideas for the River Chief Systems transferred to other areas using a 'process-oriented' perspective drawn from the policy transfer, and thus it helps to inform evidence-based policy making and advance understanding of complex policy transfer dynamics involved in China. Examining locally-archived policy records, we aim to build up a theoretical framework to explore the mechanisms of the N-Chief Systems in mainland China's environmental governance methods, while we focus on how the RCS transfer processes shape the N-Chief Systems in policy learning and affect their policy implementation outcomes within local or national environmental governance contexts.	Yun Liu	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University	Water;Land;Plants;Waste;	
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Visual presentation

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VP-01	The art of more than human: a study of developmental modeling techniques using termites as a clue	Visual presentation	Yes	This research investigates a developmental method of modelling using digital fabrication, based on the forms that are created by the ecological activities of termites as 'non-human life forms'.	Masashi ECHIGO	Kamiyama Marugoto College of Technology	Animals;PIants;Micro organisms; Land;insect;Humans;	
VP-02	Multispecies Collaborations in Ecological Art	Visual presentation	Yes	Artists engage with ecological relations in creative ways that activate, shift and grow over time working with environments as collaborator embracing flux. Examples of ecological engagement by artists include Nakaya Fujiko's (1933-) work with changing air and fog, the Harrisons' (Helen 1927-2018, Newton 1932-2022) work with lagoons and fish, Wu Mali's (1957-) work with rivers and threads as well as Ozawa Tsuyoshi's (1965-) work with toxic soil from Teshima. This panel delves into the following question: what forms of environmental herstories and histories are possible with other than human perspectives integrated deeply into our research methodologies? Building upon recent studies that expand historical methodologies to include multispecies worldviews including the centering of intimate relations with trees (Kimmerer 2013), fungal interactions within late capitalism (Tsing 2015), embodying a coyote's view of humans (Watt 2017) and human-plant entanglements (Nandi et al. 2024) this panel thinks with artistic works as nostalgic methods of envisioning future methodologies (Amami FM 77.7) to share with diverse disciplines. By recentering other than human remembrances into our research practices now, humans can repair interspecies relationships to one of kinship.	James JACK	Waseda University	Animals;PIants;Micro organisms; Water;Air;Land;Waste; Humans;	

VP-03	Contaminated Art: Artistic Intervention and Decolonization of Memories, Narratives, and Histories	Visual presentation + Roundtable	Yes	How has art responded to crises such as disasters, conflicts, pandemics, and climate change and criticized the West-centric history-making process? This roundtable, which will examine the decolonization of history-making through the unique perspective of artists, is a crucial discussion for those interested in the intersection of art, history, and decolonization. It will identify future prospects and challenges and discuss what is needed for trans-local collaboration.	Takashi Arai	Artist	Disasters; Humans; Microorganisms;	
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Field visit with workshops

Panel ID	Panel Title	Panel Type	Call for Papers	Contents Description	Convenor	Affiliation	Topics	Affiliation
FV-01	Illuminating world-historical issues from the environment of small Living Spaces: Teshima, Japan	Field visit with workshop	Yes	There are more than 700 islands of various sizes in Japan's Inland Sea. Each of them forms its own unique Living Spaces. The Seto Inland Sea between Kagawa and Okayama prefectures is known as the Bisan Seto, and offers a scenic landscape of islands. The first visitors to Japan in the Edo and early Meiji periods always admired the cultural landscape of the Seto Inland Sea. This is because many of the islands had been cultivated by human labour with animals, creating a truly organised landscape of mountain and sea villages. Today, however, many islands, like the rest of Japan, have been abandoned and the fields and forests have been neglected. However, they are still home to a wide variety of life forms, including humans. A closer look at each island reveals not only its own specific problems, but also various environmental issues that are common to all Living Spaces in the world. In this workshop, which will be accompanied by an inspection tour, we would like to consider what can be said from the small Living Spaces of Teshima, focusing on specific environmental issues such as groundwater and oak galleys. We will start the second day of AAEH 2025 with a whole-day meeting on Teshima. We would welcome anyone who would like to contribute to the topic. At the moment, the meeting is scheduled for Sunday 20 September 2025.	Masataka Yatsuzuka	Kagawa University	Animals; Plants; Air; Water; Disasters; Humans	

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