

Embracing Otherness, Exploring Muslims

Photo Exhibition | Online Talk Event



Organized by The Japan Foundation, Bangkok
Supported by Embassy of Japan in Thailand

Photo Exhibition

Date & Time 15-20 Sep 2020 (10:00 – 19:00)

Venue Curved wall, 5th floor),
Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC)

Entrance fee Free of charge

Language Thai and English

Online Talk Event

Date & Time Saturday 19 Sep 2020 (13:00 – 15:00)
Thailand Time GMT +7

Broadcast channel Youtube

Language Thai and English

- Free of charge -

Please register this online form
and we will send the link to join the talk.

<https://cutt.ly/Efa3kNK>

Embracing Otherness, Exploring Muslims is a follow-up project of *Talk with Muslims series (TAMU)* by the Japan Foundation Asia Center. TAMU has brought together Southeast Asian and Japanese youths engaging in social welfare, community empowerment, and socio-religious affairs into a dialogue to discover each other's cultures, religions, and values.

This follow-up project will take you to discover other sides of being a Muslim and to embrace cultural diversity through photo exhibition from and online talk event in order to develop a better understanding towards Muslim from many perspectives and to create cultural exchanges so that the otherness will become more perceivable in this multicultural society.

PRESS RELEASE

Photo Exhibition 15-20.09.2020 (10:00 – 19:00)

Curved wall, 5th floor, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC)

The photo exhibition comprises of two sets of photo by three photographers sharing 65 pictures about lives of Muslims in Thailand and Japan. Samak Kosem and Kalil Pitsuwan pick Chiang Mai as a place to tell the story with short dialogues about diversity and migration of Muslim under the name *fieldnote - visual ethnography of Muslim in Chiang Mai*. On the other hand, Sato Kenei, a Japanese journalist, thought that the narratives about Muslim through mass media in Japan focuses merely on their religion. Instead of thinking that they are foreign people living in Japanese community, Muslims should be perceived as a member of our community so that we could discover many more sides apart from religion. His 25 photos are presented with short story alongside under the title of *Everyday Life of Muslims in Japan*.



- ถิ่นบวชที่เชียงใหม่
- ทุ่งนาที่เชียงใหม่
- ตลาดนครเชียงใหม่
- ไปกับวงดนตรี
เชียงใหม่ บ้านฮือ บ้านดอน
คนที่ที่นี่ไม่เคยเห็นกันที่ไหน
มาที่นี่เท่านั้น

Samak Kosem and Kalil Pitsuwan (2020)



Grave Visiting by Sato Kenei (2018)

Everyday Life of Muslims in Japan

Photo and Story by

Sato Kenei is a Tokyo-based freelance photographer, who gained strong interest in the relation between minorities and their host society when he experienced his own identity as a Japanese got blurred while studying photojournalism at the University of Minnesota. He also does extensive interviews of his subject to better understand them, which led to the publication of the nonfiction book *Believing in Islam in Japan* published by Bungeishunju (2015).



PRESS RELEASE

fieldnote - visual ethnography of Muslim in Chiang Mai

Photo and Story by



Samak Kosem (TAMU fellow - 2017) works in the field of anthropology and his ongoing research in the Deep South of Thailand. His works portray through photography and visual ethnography. Samak's previous works include *Otherwise Inside* (2018) and *Nonhuman Ethnography* (2018) in Bangkok Art Biennale. He continues his PhD to combine art and visual anthropo-logical practice for his project on *Borders re/make Bodies* that show at Osage Gallery in Hong Kong.

Kalil Pitsuwan holds a B.A.in history from Thammasat University, he is currently studying an M.A.in Sociology and Anthropology at Chiang Mai University on the topic of subculture in the urban context. Kalil is interested in film criticism and literature, therefore, he writes articles concerning such topics for several magazines and websites such as a day magazine, The Momentum and GM Live. He also co-wrote a movie script that portrays the life of Muslim women in the southern part of Thailand.



Online Talk Event

19.09.2020 (13:00-15:00, Thailand Time GMT+7) Youtube Live

The first session will start with a talk from **Essaadi Miwa**, Secretary-General of Shizuoka Muslim Association, about living a life as a Muslim in Japan and life during a New Normal, followed by a reflection and messages about photo exhibition from **Sato Kenei**. As for a cross-sharing with Essaadi, **Alisah Hansamoh** will give a talk about Muslims and pandemic in Southern Thailand and Malaysia. The last session will be *Embracing Diversity* shared by **ex TAMU fellows** who will have a discussion on Muslims society in each region of Thailand and conflict management in community. *Stay tuned for more details at www.jfbkk.or.th and www.facebook.com/jfbangkok*

Please register this online form and we will send the link to join the talk.

<https://cutt.ly/Efa3kNK>

Speakers



Essaadi Miwa received an M.A. on Public Administration from the Graduate School of Portland State University, U.S.A. She became a Muslim at the age of 24. She has been actively involved in various activities introducing Islam and life of Muslims. Essaadi serves as the president of i.SOLUTIONS, a business providing services and product development for Muslim living in Japan and a secretary general of Shizuoka Muslim Association

PRESS RELEASE

Sato Kenei is a Tokyo-based freelance photographer, who gained strong interest in the relation between minorities and their host society when he experienced his own identity as a Japanese got blurred while studying photojournalism at the University of Minnesota. He also does extensive interviews of his subject to better understand them, which led to the publication of the nonfiction book *Believing in Islam in Japan* published by Bungeishunju (2015).



Fitra Jehwoh (TAMU fellow - 2016) holds an M.A. in Global Studies in A European Perspective from University of Vienna and MSc in Global Economic History from the London School of Economics and Political Science, she is a program officer in Violence Against Women Project in Thailand's Deep South, Oxfam in Thailand. Based in Pattani, Fitra closely works with Islamic organizations and groups of Muslim women, besides she is an expert on women's rights in Islam, social workers, and media group in reducing domestic violence and empowering women.

Samak Kosem (TAMU fellow - 2017) works in the field of anthropology and his ongoing research in the Deep South of Thailand. His works portray through photography and visual ethnography. Samak's previous works include *Otherwise Inside* (2018) and *Nonhuman Ethnography* (2018) in Bangkok Art Biennale. He continues his PhD to combine art and visual anthropo-logical practice for his project on *Borders re/make Bodies* that show at Osage Gallery in Hong Kong.



Rossanee Kaesaman (TAMU Fellow – 2018) is a poet from Hatyai, Thailand and studying an M.A. in Media Studies and Cultural Communication, Chulalongkorn University. She was a journalist reporting on unrest in the Deep South of Thailand. Knowing that some truth can't be disclosed, she transformed it into a collection of poetry *Far Away From Our Own Homes*, which was a finalist for the 2016 S.E.A. Write Award. *Lost In Homeland* was screened in International Video Poetry Festival in Greece and Bangkok Underground Film Festival.

Kalil Pitsuwan holds a B.A. in history from Thammasat University, he is currently studying an M.A. in Sociology and Anthropology at Chiang Mai University- no the topic of subculture in the urban context. Kalil is interested in film criticism and literature, therefore, he writes articles concerning such topics for several magazines and websites such as a day magazine, The Momentum and GM Live. He also co-wrote a movie script that portrays the life of Muslim women in the southern part of Thailand.



PRESS RELEASE



Sainoon Jarong obtained a Master's degree of Japanese Language Support from University of Miyazaki. During the time in Japan, she was a student representative providing advices for Halal business investors and actively joining Muslim cultural exchange activities with locals. Sainoon is currently a lecturer in Japanese language department, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Prince of Songkhla University (Pattani Campus). Aside from academic career, she has created a Facebook page called *Islam in Japan, Japanese Muslims* as a platform to share the story of Muslims in Japan as well as some useful tips for Thai-Muslims in Japan.

Moderator



Alisa Hasamoh is a PhD student in the College of Arts, Society & Education at James Cook University. Since 2005, she has been a Lecturer in Social Development in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Prince of Songkhla University (Pattani campus). Over the past eight years, she has had extensive research experience in Aceh, Indonesia and Deep South, Thailand. Alisa has worked closely with affected communities in conflict situations, and developed post-disaster recovery programs for Prince of Songkla University (Deep South Thailand) and Syiah University (Aceh Indonesia) in 2006. Alisa's research topic is Trauma and gender in natural disasters and conflict contexts: A comparative study of Aceh, Indonesia and the Deep South, Thailand.

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