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## Session Submission Summary

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### **Coping with Monsoon in Asia from the 19th to the 20th Century: Exploring Environmental History with Meteorological Database and Spatial Analysis**

Mon, July 22, 4:00 to 5:30pm, Centro de Filosofia e Ciências Humanas (CFH), Miniáuditorio do CFH

**Session Submission Type:** Panel

#### **Abstract**

The natural environment of the Asia has two features related to water. One is the great influence of monsoons and seasonal rainfall. Another is that many regions in Asia are terrains surrounded by water systems, that is, part of the hydrosphere. Historically, the seasonal rainfalls shaped production, commerce, consumption there. Moreover, the crises such as droughts and floods critically undermined people's well-beings, even threatened their lives. To cope with monsoons, the technologies and the social organizations varied in the region even after the modern technologies were introduced in the 19th century. What discerned their technological and social repertoire to deal with the seasonal rainfalls? What were their outcomes? By inquiring those questions comparatively about India, Southeast Asia, and China, this session aims to explore the environmental history of Asia in terms of socioeconomic activities under the conditions of monsoons and the hydrosphere.

Although "monsoon Asia" as a term has been widely used not only by scholars but also by medias and business persons, the climate varies in the region as well as annually fluctuates. The key challenge for a historical analysis is how to recapture the actual climate of the area to analyze during the targeted period. Based upon the collaboration among meteorologists, social engineers, and historians, this session tackles this problem by constructing the meteorological database from the contemporary observations and then applying the spatial analysis to the data to examine the scale and the degree of the impacts of the rainfalls or the lack of them. Combining new data base and analytical methods with conventional archival and statistical analyses, this session uncovers the interactions between the natural and the social landscapes of the modern Asia.

#### **Sub Unit**

3rd World Congress of Environmental History

#### **Individual Presentations**

Reconsidering the Great Famine (1876-1878) in Western India from a meteorological perspective - *Michihiro Ogawa*, Kanazawa University

Rainfall and Rice Harvest in Thailand in the early 20th Century: An Analysis of Statistical Year Books of Kingdom of Thailand - *Toshiyuki Miyata*, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Natural Disaster and Food Supply in the Early 20th Century China: The Case of 1931 Yangzi River Flood - *Tomoko Shiroyama*, The University of Tokyo

#### **Chair**

*David Pietz*, University of Arizona