

PANEL

Gender and Climate Change: Exploring Actions from the Ground

Convener

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Panel Description

Myanmar is under conflict situation, but that does not exempt it from the impact of climate change. As is well noted, there is a gender difference in the impact of climate change, and women are disproportionately affected by them. There have been studies that showed how women's adaptation strategies are different from men. However, most of the climate change studies are technical science oriented or only highlight the economic impact. This panel will challenge these approaches from bringing out the experiences and the explorations from the grassroots women's organizations experiences. The challenges that they face on a daily basis might not be recognized as climate change. They might not have the ways to mitigate the effects because the phenomenon is caused by those outside their reach. At the same time, they might be pressed to take action to prevent climate change, by being told not to use fuelwood, not to burn fields, to economize in the use of water, etc. But how are they able to do so, when they are even struggling to adapt to climate change? The complicated dilemma that women on the ground is facing is discussed in this panel. How do they navigate the donor discourse on climate change while trying to make sure that there is some support to maintain their livelihoods?

We will start with an overview of the current status and understanding of climate change efforts that have been taken up by grassroot women's organizations in Myanmar. This will be followed by five speakers from different ethnic groups in different locations, who will be sharing the struggles that the women in the communities are facing under climate change, their resilience and their efforts to support them. Some will be delivered in Burmese with translations.