

Workshop Speakers

by Admin Web - Friday, May 16, 2014

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Associate Professor Dr Avorn Opatpatanakit

Assistant President for Research & Academic Service, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

Workshop Title: Research Driven Community Engagement

Avorn Opatpatanakit (1960) works for the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand. She has worked as a coordinator for the Thailand Research Fund (TRF), Community-Based Research Division during 1998-2009, facilitating the establishment of the community-based research (CBR) management system in education institutions, local administrative organizations, local government organizations, and private sectors in the local community. She also served as Assistant to the President for Research and Academic Affairs, since October 2010, facilitating the establishment of the area-based research management system of Chiang Mai University in collaboration with TRF, CBR Division and local communities. She has undertaken research projects and published academic articles on participatory agricultural extension, community-based research management system, and empowerment.

Héctor Salazar Salame

Executive Director, J-PAL Southeast Asia

Workshop title: Impact Assessment Measures

Héctor Salazar Salame joined J-PAL SEA in August 2012. As Executive Director, he is developing the regional office's portfolio of projects and growing its institutional presence in Indonesia and the Southeast Asia region. In the years prior to joining J-PAL, Héctor held positions in the New York City Office of the Mayor as well as with international and local NGOs working in Latin America and Indonesia. During this time, he researched, designed and managed initiatives in the fields of poverty reduction, election observation, labor rights advocacy and community participation. Héctor holds a Masters degree in City Planning from MIT (2011) with a focus on Political Economy and an Undergraduate degree in International Affairs from James Madison University (2004). Originally from Mexico, Héctor is natively fluent in Spanish and English. He is also proficient in Bahasa Indonesia.

