

*Bio-data*

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Dr. Panya is a specialist in community-based environmental and natural resource management. He has had long experiences in development of research methodologies applicable to rural communities, i.e., Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), Photo Novella and Ethnography combined, and Dialogue for Self-empowerment. He has for the past five years joined an international, collaborated research program of five Asian countries on promotion of local/indigenous knowledge-based for sustainable resource management.

Dr. Panya received MA in anthropology from University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA, under the East-West Centre scholarship and Ph.D. in human geography from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, fully funded by the Ford Foundation scholarship program. He is currently assistant professor at the Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand.

In addition to academic works, Dr. Panya also engages himself in social and environmental activism. He has for the past four years served as a member of Thai Congressional Committees (Upper House) on environment and natural resources. He is currently board chair of Greenpeace Southeast Asia and trustee of Greenpeace International.