

Training Workshop Programme 2024

# Defining and Managing River Boundaries and International Rivers

8 – 10 May 2024, Bangkok, Thailand



This course will help boundary-makers and managers develop effective strategies for turning river boundaries into assets.



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## INTRODUCTION

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Three quarters of the world's international boundaries follow rivers for at least part of their course. While the reasons for choosing rivers as boundaries are easily understood, river boundaries almost invariably generate a multitude of legal, technical and managerial challenges – for which no instruction book has yet been written. This unique course is designed to help boundary-makers and managers develop effective strategies for turning river boundaries into assets rather than a source of friction between the riparian states.

Led by expert tutors with practical experience of resolving problems associated with river boundaries, the workshop will cover issues such as: delimiting and demarcating river boundaries; identifying key river features such as the thalweg, the 'main channel' and the 'banks'; islands in boundary rivers; monitoring and accommodating physical changes in river boundaries; managing access and resource use in shared rivers; and resolving disputes over river boundaries. The workshop will combine instruction in the principles and practice of river boundary definition and management, detailed case studies and practical exercises.

### Who should attend?

- Legal Advisors
- Environmental consultants
- Geopolitical analysts
- Surveyors
- Cartographers
- Diplomats
- Border managers
- Geomorphologists
- Hydrologists

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## TUTORS

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### Mr Songchai Chaipatiyut

Deputy Director-General, Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand

### Dr Riley Denoon

Barrister, Solicitor and Independent Legal Consultant, Transboundary/International Environmental and Watercourse Resources,  
British Columbia, Canada

### Professor Martin Pratt

Director, Bordermap Consulting Ltd

### Professor Alan D. Ziegler

Faculty of Fisheries Technology and Aquatic Resources,  
Maejo University, Thailand

Representative of the Mekong River Commission (to be confirmed)



Image by Supanut Arunoprayote

## PROGRAMME

Wednesday 8 May	0830-0900	<b>Registration</b>	
	0900-0945	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River boundaries around the world</li> <li>Challenges associated with river boundaries</li> <li>Why rivers are chosen as boundaries</li> </ul>
	0945-1100	<b>River systems and their complexity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fluvial system</li> <li>Channel dynamics</li> <li>The river continuum</li> <li>The significance of timescales</li> </ul>
	1100-1130	<i>Refreshments</i>	
	1130-1245	<b>River boundary definition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The legal framework</li> <li>Implications of changes in boundary rivers</li> <li>Interpreting terms used in river boundary definition (<i>thalweg</i>, main channel, median line, source, confluence, tributary etc.)</li> <li>Where in the river is the boundary located</li> <li>Islands in boundary rivers</li> </ul>
	1245-1345	<i>Lunch</i>	
	1345-1500	<b>River boundary definition</b> (continued)	
Thursday 9 May	1500-1700	<b>Practical exercise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with maps and other geographical data, participants will attempt to identify the alignment of a number of rivers boundaries.</li> </ul>
	1600-1620	<i>Refreshments</i>	
	0900-1030	<b>The utilization of boundary rivers and international rivers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Navigational uses and rules</li> <li>Rights and responsibilities of upstream and downstream states</li> <li>Non-navigational uses and rules</li> </ul>
	1030-1100	<i>Refreshments</i>	
	1100-1200	<b>Case study: Thailand's experience of defining and managing river boundaries</b>	
	1200-1300	<b>Case study: the Mekong River Commission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purpose, structure and activities</li> <li>Successes, failures and lessons learned</li> <li>Collaboration with stakeholders</li> </ul>
Friday 10 May	1300-1400	<i>Lunch</i>	
	1400-1700	<b>Practical exercise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working in teams, participants will seek to agree an equitable river boundary regime between two fictional states.</li> </ul>
	0900-0945	<b>Locating and analysing river boundaries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map data</li> <li>Challenges in surveying river boundaries</li> <li>Remotely-sensed imagery</li> </ul>
	0945-1100	<b>Resolving disputes related to river boundaries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State practice</li> <li>Options for third-party assistance in dispute resolution</li> <li>Case law</li> </ul>
	1100-1130	<i>Refreshments</i>	
1130-1230	<b>Managing river boundaries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management challenges</li> <li>Conflict prevention</li> <li>From demarcation to management: the evolving role of boundary commissions</li> </ul>	
1230-1300	<b>Closing discussion and wrap-up</b>		

## What will it cost?

The cost of the workshop is **£2,250** per participant. Payment can only be accepted in GBP sterling, however, we are able to accept payment by most major credit and debit cards.

### REDUCED WORKSHOP RATE FOR LDC LIST COUNTRIES

For countries on the United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDC) list, the cost of the workshop will be **£1,250** per participant. Places are limited at this rate and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Full payment **MUST** be received prior to the workshop to guarantee the booking. If full payment is not received before the start of workshop, any provisional places booked will be removed.

In addition to tuition and all course materials, the fees cover the following:

- Lunch and refreshment breaks on 8, 9 and 10 May
- Riverboat trip (subject to availability)

Cover image: *The Mekong River*. Image by DEZALB from Pixabay

## How to book

Places are limited and early booking is highly recommended:

1. Contact the IBRU Team and complete the online booking form at [www.durham.ac.uk/ibru](http://www.durham.ac.uk/ibru)
2. Acknowledgement of the provisional booking will be sent by email with information on how to pay.
3. If payment is not received by the deadline specified, the reserved place will be cancelled and your booking removed to a waiting list. Your place will only be confirmed when payment is received and if a place is still available.

## Additional information

### The Venue

#### The Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel and Towers

2 Charoen Krung 30, Bang Rak, Bangkok 10500, Thailand  
<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/bkksi-royal-orchid-sheraton-hotel-and-towers/overview/>

The Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel and Towers is a five star hotel located on the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok, Thailand.

The river connects you to many of the top attractions in Bangkok, all reachable by the Chao Phraya Tourist Boat.

The hotel is 37km from Suvarnabhumi International airport and shuttle busses are available to and from the hotel.

The hotel has a range of five star facilities including first class conference facilities, swimming pools, spa, gym, four award-winning restaurants and bar with panoramic river view and has a convenient location within minutes of shopping malls, entertainment areas and tourist attractions.



### Accommodation

Accommodation is **not** included in the workshop fee and participants are required to book their own accommodation in Bangkok. The Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel and Towers have a preferential booking rate available to our participants. A link to book your accommodation at the hotel will be provided upon booking a place on the workshop.

### Travel

You are expected to organise your own travel arrangements to Bangkok. Please be aware that you may require a VISA to enter Thailand to attend a training event and you will be required to apply for your own visa for entry into the country. Please allow enough time for your visa to be processed before the start of the workshop. A letter of invitation can be provided to support your visa application.

### Language

Teaching and workshop materials will be in English.

### Cancellations

Cancellations must be received in writing not later than the **1 May 2024** and will be subject to a £250 cancellation fee, unless a substitute participant is offered. After this date the full registration fee will be charged for all cancellations. substitute participant is offered. After this date the full registration fee will be charged for all cancellations. Please refer to the booking terms & conditions available to download on the IBRU website.

### Programme changes

IBRU reserves the right to modify the programme as necessary without notice to participants.

## The J.R.V. Prescott Scholarship

Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of international boundaries scholar JRV Prescott, IBRU is pleased to offer the JRV Prescott Student Scholarship Programme, to support postgraduate attendance at IBRU training workshops.

Each year, IBRU will award one person a scholarship covering workshop registration, plus up to £500 towards expenses, to attend one of that year's regularly scheduled training workshops. To be eligible an individual must be enrolled in a current postgraduate course of study or have completed a postgraduate qualification in the last 5 years in any discipline.

**This workshop is eligible for the Prescott Scholarship.**



## Contact Information

If you have any questions about the workshop please contact the IBRU Events Team.

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