

Q&A about the curated conferences program

Thank you to everyone who joined the Q&A session – we had friends calling in from Belgium, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand – already a great dialogue and exchange!

Thanks to their good questions and suggestions, we have some questions and clarifications to share with everyone.

Questions *(please click on the link to jump to the answer)*

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Q: Is the curated conferences program only open to curators?

A: No. There is no guideline about the kind of job role that people joining the curated conferences need to have. We welcome all kinds of professional (or unprofessional!) profiles

Q: How many people will be selected totally?

A: There are 3 small group conferences; each group will have maximum 6 members. So the maximum number of people participating in this program will be 18.

Q: Do the group members choose the conference topic themselves?

A: No. The topic for the discussion has been developed by the Curator. They have prepared this as a starting point for the conference. The direction of the conversation will evolve in response to the inputs and ideas of everyone in the group. But the framework will start from the Curator's prompt. The group will not be invited to come up with a topic from a blank canvas. You can read more about the topics [online](#) – hopefully you will find at least one that you are interested to discuss.

Q: I am really interested in one of the topics. Where can I find more information?

A: Please check this document: <https://mekongculturalhub.org/wp-content/uploads/Curated-conferences-Topics-and-curator-profiles.pdf>

Q: What if I am interested in more than one of the conferences?

A: We ask you to base your application on one conference topic only, as the questions are mainly about why you find this topic relevant, interesting and useful to discuss at this time. However, there is space on the application form to note if you are interested in another conference as well.

Q: Will the 3 groups interact with each other?

A: We haven't yet made any plan for the 3 groups to meet during the conferencing period from November – April. So far we have only thought about those groups



meeting within themselves. However all 3 groups will have a chance to meet and talk in Taipei.

Q: Will each conference group have a chance to share their ideas with the wider audience at the Meeting Point?

A: Yes, this is an integral part of the program. You can consider two phases to the curated conference. 1: discussion, consultation and exchange within your small group. 2. Bringing your collective interests/ideas to the Meeting Point in a format that the rest of the participants can interact with. We expect around 80-100 people to be at the Meeting Point in total.

Q: Each group will meet 4-6 times. Can you tell us what frequency those meetings would be?

A: It will be up to the groups (with the curator) to set their own schedule for conferencing. This includes both the date of the sessions and the duration of the sessions. Some groups may prefer to have a smaller number of longer sessions; other groups might want to have lots of short conversations. However, we can guess that the sessions might take place roughly once per month.

Q: Are there minimum requirements relating to years of experience or international experience for the participants?

A: Definitely not. We welcome people from all kinds of backgrounds, at different stages of their careers or studies. The mix of experiences and perspectives will make for more interesting discussion. What is important is that you have a clear idea of WHY you think this topic is relevant to you at this time, and can share that in your application. Please feel very comfortable to apply!

Q: What if international travel is not possible in May or there are long quarantine requirements in place?

A: We do hope that travel within Asia should have opened up by this time in 2021 – however of course we cannot be sure about this. If there are enough people who could meet in-person in May to make it worthwhile, but some countries can't, then we will explore a hybrid model for the Meeting Point. If it is not practical at all for an in-person meeting in May then we will explore a virtual Meeting Point first, and look to an in-person one later. The idea of the Meeting Point anyway is that it is not a



“destination” but a stopping point on a journey. So we can keep going forward and meet later if that is the best decision to make at the time.

Q: What will the space be like at the Meeting Point? Will there be other programs going on as well as the Curated Conferences?

A: The Meeting Point will take place at C-Lab in Taipei. This creative park is basically a campus of different buildings, and with quite a lot of open, outdoor space. There will be several different programs arranged for the Meeting Point. Some of these will be initiated and supported by MCH, and we will share more details about those soon. There will also be open space provided, and we welcome ideas from others.

Q: What does Revealing Contexts mean? What do you mean by context?

A: The theme of Revealing Contexts applies to the whole meeting point, not only the curated conferences. Context has many layers, and it will be different to different people. The idea for this theme emerged from discussion with Advisors of MCH. There are two aspects behind it. First is acknowledgement of the fact that COVID-19 has revealed the urgent attention that needs to be paid to inequality and inequity in societies around the world – for example lack of access to healthcare and clean water, or the vulnerable employment conditions of too many people. These contexts are not new, but COVID has brought them in to a spotlight. Secondly, we recognize through our own work that while there is a lot that is common across Asia, there is also a lot that is different and diverse in the contexts of different countries and communities. If we want to collaborate and exchange it is important that we don't assume we know each other, or that things are the same in one place as another. For that reason, we want to try to challenge ourselves to really be aware of context, and to make space at the Meeting Point for participants to reveal aspects of their context to others, and even to themselves.

Q: What if I want to propose an idea for a program at the Meeting Point?

A: That would be great – we would love to hear from you. The theme for the Meeting Point is Revealing Contexts, and we focus on arts and social action in Asia. We want the Meeting Point to serve as a step within a larger process. So we would prefer programs that begin before the Meeting Point and will have some life after the Meeting Point, and would benefit from the opportunity of doing something at a gathering of people with shared interests at the Meeting Point. If you are not sure, please just get in touch and we can talk.