



# ARI NEWS

A newsletter of the Asia Research Institute, NUS

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## We've Moved! ARI finds new home at the Bukit Timah Campus of NUS

ARI offices are officially and ceremonially open for business on the Bukit Timah Campus. Although initially scheduled for moving before the new year, ARI did not shift over until mid January. Once we all felt somewhat settled in our new surroundings, ARI held an official opening following our first "In the Beginning" seminar in our new home. Inviting the Directors of the East Asian Institute and the South Asian Institute, our co-building neighbors, ARI offices were blessed with the lion dancers from the Sar Kong Mun San Fook Tuck Chee Lion Dance Troupe. Once our premises was blessed, ARI members enjoyed an ARI lunch which was followed by an Institute meeting.

The Bukit Timah campus has a long and rich history as the home to academic institutions. The Raffles College, built on land donated by the Straits Settlement Government, was opened in 1929 on what is now the Bukit Timah campus. Raffles College was established to promote the arts and social sciences among Singapore's tertiary students. Two decades later Raffles College merged with King Edward VII College of Medicine to form the University of Malaya (1949–1962). In the early 1960s, the university separated into the Singapore and the Kuala Lumpur Divisions. This division later led to the two centers becoming the national universities of their respective countries, hence the National University of Singapore (NUS). NUS remained on the Bukit Timah campus until 1977, when it outgrew the campus and shifted to Kent Ridge.

Singapore Management University (SMU) replaced NUS on the Bukit Timah campus. With SMU's relocation, Bukit Timah was again open to house new occupants. While both NUS and NTU (Nanyang Technological University) bid for access to the soon to be vacant campus; NUS' needs were deemed greater, resulting in its successful bid. Sharing the campus with ARI are the Faculty of Law, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, as well as the Asian Law Institute, Institute of South Asian Studies, and the East Asian Institute, the latter two being our nearest neighbors with whom we share a building.

At the new location, ARI members are more consolidated

than at the Kent Ridge campus which has had the pleasant result of more contact between ARI members. Situated on levels 8–10 of the ten-storey Tower Block, each floor has its own individual character. The eight floor, contains more offices than the other two floors. Level 9 houses ARI's library as well as a small bank of computers for student use. The tenth floor provides ample room both for the boardroom and the seminar room (with plush new chairs!) as well as offices for staff, administration, cluster leaders, research assistants and the ARI director.

Upon the move, some logistics needed to be ironed out. Not wishing the metaphor of isolation in a tower to become a reality, ARI is reaching out to our colleagues in the faculty by continuing to run our Tuesday afternoon Seminar Series in the Shaw Foundation Building at Kent Ridge. Hopefully, with time, Kent Ridge faculty and students will appreciate a visit to Bukit Timah as a respite in their hectic schedules; especially since we are located next to one of the most tranquil spots in Singapore!

The Bukit Timah campus affords ARI members and visitors the opportunity to take a lunch break and visit the neighbouring Botanical Gardens; a prime tourist stop in Singapore! The Singapore Botanical Gardens opened its gates in 1859, as a leisure spot and ornamental park. Henry Nicholas Ridley, the Garden's first Director (1888–1911), is best known for introducing a sustainable method of rubber tapping which is still used today. Ridley was farsighted by setting aside garden land planted in rubber in sufficient quantity to fulfill the supply needs of Malaysian plantations when they shifted to rubber from coffee.

In the 1980's the gardens became instrumental in the overall landscaping of Singapore. The gardens provided the planting materials used all over the island. In the 1980's, the Botanical Gardens Director recognized the garden's role in research and in education by providing a space for local botanical specimens (e.g. a medicinal specimens garden, a nuts and beverage crop area to name a few near our offices).

A university-wide official launch of the renovated Bukit Timah campus is tentatively scheduled for July 2007.

## WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR – PROFESSOR ANTHONY REID

### — A CHANGE OF EMPHASIS?



The move to Bukit Timah coincided with some other changes to make 2007 a truly New Year for ARI. Taken together, they mark the end of the Institute's growing phase and the beginning of a rather different stable existence. The more dramatic changes were not of our own choosing, but University policy requires us to redefine our mission in this stable second phase.

Let me first list the major changes that have occurred since we celebrated our fifth anniversary last July.

The move to our permanent home in the Bukit Timah campus in January. ARI grew out of the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), and for its first five years occupied four different spaces within the FASS complex. Although we share seven joint appointments with FASS, and three current secondments from it, our neighbours are now the other Asia institutes (EAI, ISAS and the nascent MEI), the LKY School of Public Policy and the Law Faculty.

The transfer of the line of responsibility and budgeting for ARI (through its Management Board, on which four faculties, LKYSPP and EAI are represented) from the Provost and Vice-Provost to the Deputy President for Research and Technology and ORE.

The establishment of a permanent core budget beginning FY2007 at a level 25% lower than that which we had enjoyed since reaching a plateau in 2004.

The establishment by the Ministry of Education (MoE) of a systematic procedure for competitively funding research, including that in the social sciences and humanities. This has been matched by NUS itself, as it places ever greater emphasis on world class research, in establishing a distinct line of funding for social science and humanities.

I have for some time conceptualised the mission of ARI as carefully balancing three different imperatives I call the High, the Broad and the Regional. High means pinnacles of research achievement; Broad has meant synergizing with the faculties and lifting their research performance; and Regional means acting as a research hub for the region in which Singapore sits. The changes above clearly amount to a strong endorsement of the High, and throw us some challenges in continuing to serve the Broad. The Regional concern to bring exciting young researchers to Singapore for shorter or longer periods will of course continue, though perhaps in more focused theme areas.

To begin with the High, the Institute has understood that its mission now must prioritise helping the social sciences to compete effectively for funds at the national level. The university intends that we should win back the lost core funding through competitive grants, and go on to build world-class research concentrations through that funding. Obtaining large MoE grants will in turn make us more specialised in the areas that win funding. As we prepare for these funding bids, we already feel the focusing effect on specific issues and problems.

The Broad remains critical, but will need some rethinking. Anything which can be seen as essentially subsidizing faculties out of ARI funds intended for research has been ruled out of the new and leaner ARI budget. Reluctantly we have therefore had to drop the writing scheme, whereby about 30 Assistant Professors from FASS, Law, Business and SDE have spent a semester of teaching release with ARI over the past 5 years, writing the work which would help their tenure review. Also cancelled was a new scheme for one-year secondment of ambitious researchers in the four faculties. Instead of this type of interaction, we expect to work even more closely with staff of the faculties in generating and operating outside grants in areas of mutual strength.

In our old location it was natural to hold frequent seminars that served essentially ourselves and FASS. We no longer have a physical base in the Kent Ridge campus, and must work harder to ensure that our many exciting visitors and post-docs interact with the Department of the discipline to which they belong. We anticipate doing this by having them give joint seminars in the Department concerned. But we must also ensure that our new home becomes a place of intellectual ferment, by working with our neighbours there for exciting seminars, round tables and workshops. Finally, 'Broad' can be to some extent redefined in favour of the city. Bukit Timah Campus must to some extent be the NUS shop-front for the city, where busy journalists, civil servants, diplomats and corporate executives can find some of the intellectual stimulus they need. Already we have launched with Law and LKYSPP a series of public 'Bukit Timah Lectures' which can help make the campus again what it was in the 1950s and sixties, an intellectual centre for the nation.

We welcome all our colleagues and friends to visit the Bukit Timah campus, and to join with us in making it a vibrant place of meetings, challenges, and new paradigms.

## RECENT ARI EVENTS

### Mediating Transition to Post-Authoritarian Indonesia 9–10 October 2006



To examine developments in the media in Indonesia after the fall of President Suharto in May 1998, an international workshop with the theme 'Mediating Transition to Post-Authoritarian Indonesia', was held on 9–10 October 2006 in Perth, Western Australia. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Asia Research Centre (ARC), Murdoch University, (which hosted the venture), the Asia Research Institute (ARI) of the National University of Singapore (NUS), and the Asia-Pacific Futures Research Network of the Australian Research Council.

The event brought together established and emerging scholars from Australia, Southeast Asia and USA with the aim of addressing two related issues: (1) how the media is being transformed, both in terms of its structure and its texts, by the changed political economy of post-New Order Indonesia; and (2) the potential of this media in enabling or hampering the development of a pluralist democracy in Indonesia.

Participants were joined by ARI's Professor Bryan Turner

for a meal on the evening prior to workshop's formal commencement. The workshop was opened the following morning by Professor Garry Rodan (Director, ARC), and convened by Prof. David T. Hill (ARI), and Prof. Krishna Sen (Curtin University/ARC). The focus of individual papers was wide-ranging and complementary. They ranged from the global political and technological context within which Indonesian media operates, and the shifting ownership patterns of the media in Indonesia, to case studies examining developments in regional media (in Java and Papua) or particular sectors of the industry (such as Islamic media, television, or radio).

One of the most successful aspects of the workshop was the interaction between established scholars, with early career researchers. The atmosphere was supportive and collaborative, with strong themes and complementarities between papers becoming evident as the presentations proceeded intensively over the two days. At the conclusion of the workshop, it was agreed to pursue publication of an edited volume, anticipated for 2008, marking a decade since the fall of Suharto.

### Asian Consultation Gender, Migration and Citizenship 25–27 October 2006



The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) together with the Asia Research Institute (ARI) of the National University of Singapore, hosted a regional consultation on Gender, Migration and Citizenship from 25–27 October 2006 in Singapore.

The consultation sought to identify promising avenues for research in the area of gender, migration and citizenship with the objective to help us better understand the migration experience as well as inform ways to enhance the experience and empower women migrants. To do so, the framework of rights was explored in which women's migration is embedded, to identify gaps between rights de jure and rights in practice, and to seek ways to address rights deficits and violations.

Human rights were identified as the more suitable framework than citizenship as the majority of migrant women in Asia do not settle in the destination countries and thus remain non-citizens.

Investigating migration from a gender perspective was seen as essential for understanding both the causes and consequences of international and internal migration. Migration may provide new opportunities to improve the lives of women and challenge unequal gender, and other form of relations. However it can also solidify gender inequality and expose women to new vulnerabilities.

From a development perspective, the form of migration of most interest was that of lower skilled workers who typically migrate as domestic workers, 'entertainers', or industrial workers. This group predominates numerically, is at considerable risk of violations of their rights, and has potentially the most development impact. Migration amongst this group is largely in the form of temporary migration and can include international, cross-border and internal migration. Besides migrants themselves, families left behind are keenly affected by the migration experience and their experiences will also be explored.

To guide and start off the discussion, the two major themes — (1) 'Understanding migration and rights' and (2) 'Enhancing migration experiences' were outlined in form of concept papers by Dr. Naila Kabeer (1) from the Institute of Development Studies in Sussex, and Dr. Nicola Piper (2) from ARI. These will be published by IDRC some time in 2007.

## RECENT ARI EVENTS

### Workshop on Dynamic Rimlands and Open Heartlands: Maritime Asia as a Site of Interactions

Nagasaki, Japan  
27–28 October 2006

The Asia Research Institute and the Interface Humanities programme of Osaka University were pleased to collaborate for a second occasion in sponsoring “Dynamic Rimlands and Open Heartlands: Maritime Asia as a Site of Interactions”, the international workshop on the history of the Asian maritime world. Held in Nagasaki, Japan in October 2006, the said workshop follows in the heels of “Northeast Asia in Maritime Perspective: A Dialogue with Southeast Asia” which was held in Naha, Okinawa, Japan on 29–30 October 2004. “Dynamic Rimlands” brought together a group of scholars working on topics such as the issue of material and spiritual cultures adjusting under the multiple burdens of maritime contacts, the social structure of port cities, and the interaction between sea and land worlds in Southeast and Northeast Asia from the ninth century to the nineteenth century.

Topics addressed in the workshop included: maritime networks as stimulus to and as subversion of states; brokers between cultures, economies and states; turning points in the relations between maritime networks and states in the

regions; agricultural economies as affected by production for the world market; and the expansion of empires as a product and subversion of maritime regimes.

“Dynamic Rimlands” continued the dialogue between Southeast and Northeast Asia, treating their marginality with respect to the historic Chinese empire especially as a long-term source of dynamic possibilities. Scholarship on Southeast Asia has long invited a comparative approach amidst the recognition of intense pluralism. For that reason, English has been the preferred lingua franca of comparison. Meanwhile, scholarship on Northeast Asia has felt the greater weight of the momentum of the state, and thus a stronger leading role for Asian-language scholarship has arisen. The dialogue between these traditions has therefore been limited. With this workshop, which facilitated the interaction amongst scholars who work within the different historical traditions mentioned above, unexpected synergies and contrasts, together with new lines of inquiry, are anticipated to emerge.

### Roundtable on The Cold War in Asia (1948–80)

6–7 November 2006



ARI convened a Roundtable in early November partly to examine the possibility of initiating a large ARI research project on “The Cold War in Asia (1948–80)”.

While the Cold War in Asia has not ended as decisively as it did in Europe, it has retreated sufficiently to make research on it both possible and necessary. Old revolutionaries are writing memoirs and attempting to establish their legacy and legitimacy in the national narrative before they die off. Old wounds, like 1965–6 in Indonesia and 1975–8 in Cambodia, are in need of healing. Hitherto closed archives at last offer some light on the underground activities of both revolutionaries and their enemies. Radically different national interpretations of the period demand to be brought into dialogue. This period which shaped the cleavages of contemporary Asia in 1948–80 must be soberly and collegially examined before those cleavages can

be overcome. The Roundtable was aimed at assessing how this might best be done.

Scholars from around Asia and beyond were invited to make presentations addressing issues such as the type of Cold War research taking place in these countries, the issues which are being addressed and those which are not. The second day was dedicated to more generic

thematic issues including CCPO/KMT rivalries in Southeast Asia during the period, Bandung and the ideology of Third Worldism, battles over history writing and school textbooks, business and the Cold War and the forgotten victims of Cold War rivalry.

Through the discussion over the two days, it became increasingly clear that a new age of possibility in Asian Cold War research is opening. New archival materials are becoming available, with even the PRC Foreign Ministry beginning to open its 1950s and 1960s materials, and the KMT archives now open for scholars. Separately, there is a willingness among formerly revolutionaries and intelligence officers to write about their experiences. And finally even among Cold War foes, there appears a willingness to begin to address the histories of what occurred during that period.

## RECENT ARI EVENTS

### Workshop International Migration and Social Development

20–21 November 2006

Over the past two decades, international migration has become a prominent feature of contemporary social and economic life in countries across the world as exemplified by the increasing attention by both researchers and policy makers that has been paid to a variety of social and development problems linked to migration, as well as to opportunities for the countries, communities and migrants involved.

The most visible evidence and means of measuring economic development of source countries connected to migration are remittances. It is not surprising, then, that the interest in the issue of migration and development has mainly centered upon economic aspects to do with determining the volume and assessment of the contribution to national and local development through investments in productive activities. More recently, however, this subject area of remittances has also become of interest to other social scientists and new insights on remittances are gradually coming forward, albeit thus far in a sketchy and fragmented manner.

Against this backdrop, the Migration Cluster decided to hold a workshop to highlight the social dimensions of development

in order to stimulate and further the discussion of the migration-development nexus beyond (macro) economic aspects. The meaning of 'social development' as it pertains to issues of work, social welfare, health, education, respect for human rights and changing human relations was explored theoretically and with empirical relevance to Asia.

The workshop, held on 20–21 November 2006 at the National University of Singapore, aimed to tackle the following key issues: 1) the kind of social and cultural resources accrued by the different types of migrants living abroad, and the role of social networks and migrant organizations in these processes; 2) how people's aspirations, expectations and demands associated by social development (policy and service provisioning) in their home countries are affected by the experience of migration; 3) the implications of migration in terms of social impact, i.e. result in social cohesion or inequality; 4) how and to what extent migration and social policies are linked.

A selection of the papers presented is planned for publication in a special issue of *World Development*.

### Moments in the Making of Southeast Asian Islam

5–6 February 2007



The ARI workshop Moments in the Making of Southeast Asian Islam was held at the NUS Kent Ridge campus on 5–6 February 2007. Convened by Michael Feener (ARI) and Michael Laffan (Princeton University), this meeting marked the initial phase of a long-term research project of mapping the complex histories of Islam in the region.

Established literatures describing various aspects of these developments already exist in both European and Asian languages. However these various conversations are often not well integrated with each other, and this workshop aimed to take stock of the international state of the field and to explore

diverse views of what might be considered as key historical 'moments' in the making of Southeast Asian Islam. Scholars were invited from around the region to comment on what they saw to be as some of the most significant developments in the Muslim histories of areas that are today parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.

In preparation for the workshop, participants were also asked to select one or more primary texts that could be used to anchor discussions of the cases presented. These locally-based experts were then engaged in discussions around issues determining some broad outlines for a history of the moments that they feel merit further research and analysis.

The discussions were lively and, after the two days of panels, significant progress was made in laying the foundation for pursuing this ambitious project further over the years to come. Plans now include the holding of a larger international conference, with a view to producing a coherent edited volume that can be used for the teaching of Islamic history as it pertains to Southeast Asia, complete with the translation of selected primary texts that can help students and scholars better appreciate and understand major moments in this history.

## RECENT ARI EVENTS

### Comparative Workshop on Low Fertility

22–23 February 2007



In partnership with the Sociology Department of the National University of Singapore, the Asia Research Institute sponsored the Comparative Workshop on Low Fertility on 22–23 February 2007 to give attention to the determinants of marriage and fertility decisions in Asia.

In this workshop, population experts from Japan, Singapore, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and Australia gathered to discuss the influence of gender roles, changing labour markets, migration, the idealization of marriage and the impact of cultural values attached to the 'child' on marriage and fertility decisions in Asia.

With population decline not very far into the future and with existing pro-natalist policies appearing not to have much effect in encouraging fertility, this workshop aimed to investigate the factors that motivate people in Asia to marry, and to have or not to have children once married.

Among the highlights of the workshop was the evidence provided by Professor Peter McDonald that OECD countries are divided into two groups — those with fertility rates not very far below population replacement level and those with ultra-low fertility. These two groups seem to be diverging further from each other over time, with modest increases in fertility in countries such as Australia and France, and further declines in some of the lowest fertility countries. The East Asian countries are now the very lowest fertility countries in the world. Much of the discussion focused on the factors that might have led to such low fertility, and what policy responses might have an impact in raising fertility.

Governments in the region are increasingly concerned about the implications of their low fertility levels. However, the issue is related to broad institutional and cultural factors including the lack of assurance of long-term employment, the pressure on people in today's labour market to prioritize work over family, and deeply imbedded attitudes on gender roles in the household. Given this context, there is no single policy initiative that is likely to turn the situation around, but rather the need for a range of measures designed, for example, to make for more family-friendly workplaces, less pressure on young students and their parents, and substantial financial assistance for those raising children.

The revised conference papers will be brought together in a book which will meet the need for up to date information and analysis on this important issue facing all East Asian countries.

## NEW ARI MEMBERS

**Dr Bina Gubhaju** commenced a one-year appointment as Postdoctoral Fellow (Changing Family cluster) on 23 October 2006.

Dr Bina Gubhaju recently completed her PhD in Sociology and Demography at Pennsylvania State University. Her dissertation, entitled "Understanding Women's Contraceptive Decision Making and Use Dynamics in Nepal," looks at how specific socio-economic, demographic, empowerment, and programmatic factors intersect in determining women's contraceptive choices as well as sustainability of the use of family planning. During her stay at ARI she plans to prepare papers for publication from her dissertation. Her new project with the Changing Family in Asia cluster will involve comparative analysis of several Demographic and Health Surveys from the Southeast Asian region on issues pertaining to marriage and family.

**Dr Hyunjoon Shin** commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Research Fellow (Cultural Studies cluster) on 21 December 2006. Dr Hyunjoon Shin is a Research Professor in the Institute for East Asian Studies in Sunkonghoe University.

**Dr Simon Avenell** commenced a 6-month appointment under the ARI Writing Semester Scheme for Assistant Professors (Department of Japanese Studies) on 3 January 2007.

**Dr Lai Ah Eng** commenced a 2-year appointment as Senior Research Fellow (Asian Migration cluster) on 3 January 2007.

She received training in Economics at University Sains Malaysia (1977), Development Studies at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex (1981) and Social Anthropology at Cambridge University, (1992).

Her research areas and interests cover issues of family and gender; multiculturalism, ethnicity and religion; and local histories and heritages. At ARI, she will work on projects in the Migration and Changing Families Clusters.

## LIFE AFTER ARI

**Dr Ng Guat Tin** commenced a 6-month appointment under the ARI Writing Semester Scheme for Assistant Professors (Department of Social Work) on 3 January 2007.

**Dr Anne Raffin** commenced a 6-month appointment under the ARI Writing Semester Scheme for Assistant Professors (Department of Sociology) on 3 January 2007.

**Dr Thung Ju Lan** commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Research Fellow (Southeast-China Interactions cluster) on 8 January 2007. Dr Thung Ju Lan is a senior researcher at the Research Center for Society and Culture — The Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI).

**Dr Truong Huyen Chi** commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Research Fellow (Asian Migration cluster) on 8 January 2007. At ARI she is working on a comparison of narratives of the elderly who currently live in Vietnam and of those in the United States of America of the daily life in Hanoi during 1940–1950s.

**Prof Marshall Johnson** commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow (Asian Cities cluster) on 10 January 2007.

While at ARI, he will examine changes in this region's local historic preservation fields that either participate, attempt (but fail) to participate, or bypass the UNESCO World Heritage program.

**Dr Erwiza Erman** commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Research Fellow (Open Category) on 15 January 2007. Dr Erman is a researcher at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) in Jakarta, Indonesia. While at ARI, she will be working on a manuscript on labour relations and labour politics in coalmines.

**Prof Hermann Kulke** commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow (SEA-China Interactions cluster) on 15 January 2007.

**Prof Mario Rutten** commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow (Open Category) on 15 January 2007. Professor Rutten is Professor of Comparative Sociology of Asia at the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Amsterdam.

While at ARI, he will be working on a manuscript on middle classes and labour relations in Asia and Europe.

**Dr Yasuko Kobayashi** commenced a one-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow (Cultural Studies Cluster) on 12 February 2007.

Dr Kobayashi completed her doctorate at the Australian National University in 2006. Her interest is mainly stimulated by observing everyday life of contemporary Singapore, namely, everyday banal nationalism, ethnic minorities, neo-racism, labour migrants and their rights. During her stay in ARI, she intends to further her research on the Malay community as an urban minority Muslim community.

**Prof Mahua Sarkar** commenced a 6-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow (Asian Migration Cluster) on 12 February 2007.

Prof Sarkar is Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, Asian and Asian American Studies, and Women's Studies at Binghamton University. She obtained her PhD and MA in Sociology from the Johns Hopkins University (1999).

Her current research foci include Muslim identity formation in colonial Bengal, gender, nationalism, historiography (including oral histories), the politics of knowledge production, statehood and public authority, and migration.

At ARI, she will be researching intra-Asian labour migration and diasporic and/or transnational identities.

**Prof Qin Dashu** commenced a 3-month appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow (SEA-Interactions Cluster) on 25 January 2007. Prof Qin Dashu is a Professor of Archaeology at the School of Archaeology and Museology, Peking University, Beijing, China. While at ARI he will conduct research on excavated Chinese ceramics shards found in Singapore and collect export Chinese ceramics materials found in Southeast Asia.

### **Prof Pierre-Yves Manguin**

ommenced a one-year appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow (Open Category) with effect from 22 February 2007.

Pierre-Yves Manguin joined the research staff of the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO, French School of Asian Studies) in 1970.

While at ARI, he intends mainly to complete updating and rewriting his past research work on the history and archaeology of ships and shipping in Southeast Asia, and to prepare its publication in book form.

**Mr Chin Chong Cham** commenced his one-month appointment as Visiting Research Fellow (Open Category) with effect from 21 February 2007.

Laavanya Kathiravelu has moved on to pursue a PhD degree with the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

Manjit Kaur is currently pursuing her PhD in Educational Leadership at the University of Western Australia while teaching part-time in the areas of psychology and communication skills at different polytechnics in Singapore.

Kim Hee-sun is now a Lecturer at the Music Department of the Seoul National University in Seoul, Korea.

Pattana Kitiarsa has been appointed as a Visiting Fellow at the Southeast Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore

Francis Lim Khek Gee is now an Assistant Professor at The Division of Sociology Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Jennifer Lindsay is now a Visiting Fellow at the Southeast Asia Centre, Faculty of Asian Studies at The Australian National University College of Asia and the Pacific

Nicola Piper has been appointed as Senior Lecturer, effective May 2007, at the Geography Department of the University of Wales Swansea, Wales, UK

Rahman Md Mizanur has been appointed as Research Fellow in the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore

Shen Hsiu-hua is now an Assistant Professor at The Graduate Institute of Sociology, Tsing-hua University in Taiwan

Yunita Winarto, who joined ARI in 2005 as Associate Professor, has been awarded the first Academy Professorship for the Academy Professorship Indonesia (API) program.

Tim Winter has been appointed as a Postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Sociology at the University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.

## NOTICE OF NEW APPOINTMENTS

### PhD Research Scholarship at NUS

The Asia Research Institute is pleased to offer Ph.D. research scholarships from January 2008 in the following interdisciplinary areas:

- Asian Migration — Religion & Globalisation in Asian Contexts
- Cultural Studies in Asia
- Cold War in Asia
- Sumatra Heritage, Archaeology and Reconstruction

The PhD scholarship is to be taken up jointly with the appropriate discipline-based department. This would normally be with a department of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, but where appropriate could also be with the Faculty of Law, School of Business or School of Design & Environment at the National University of Singapore.

Interested applicants are required to submit their application to ARI at the address stated below by 15th May 2007, indicating clearly both which ARI interdisciplinary area they wish to join and which department they would be attached to. Application procedures and forms can be obtained from the NUS website via this URL: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/prospective/graduate/application.htm>

Applicants must use the application forms in the respective Faculty websites depending on the Faculty to which they wish to seek admission. They should send their applications to ARI directly.

The following clusters on interdisciplinary areas are offering scholarships:

- 1) The Migration Cluster (Research Leader: Professor Brenda Yeoh) explores the issues arising from increased levels of human mobility in the region, both within and across national borders. Mobility of high-level professional and managerial personnel, labour migration, both documented and undocumented,

and human trafficking all raise theoretical and methodological questions and major policy issues, as does the role of migration in urban change.

- 2) The Religion and Globalisation Cluster (Research Leader: Professor Bryan Turner) explores the changing patterns of religious practice, belief and identity in recent times, particularly in Southeast Asia, China and South Asia. The title implies a particular interest in transnational and diasporic interactions, the engagement with modern technologies and values, and new global or 'glocal' forms of identity.
- 3) The Cultural Studies Cluster (Research Leader: Professor Chua Beng Huat) consciously challenges disciplinary boundaries to address new topics, issues and concerns thrown up by the rapid globalisation of contemporary cultures. ARI is interested in new understandings of the everyday life cultural practices of contemporary Asia, as in adaptations of older patterns in literature, and the performing and graphic arts, in rapidly changing contemporary conditions.
- 4) The Southeast Asia-China Interactions Cluster (Research Leader: Professor Anthony Reid) will welcome students in two project areas: The Cold War in Asia, relating particularly to relations between the two Chinas (CCP and KMT) and the parties, movements and governments of Southeast Asia; and issues of heritage recovery and archaeology in Aceh and Sumatra more generally.

ARI is a university-level institute formed in July 2001 as one of the strategic initiatives of the NUS. The mission of the Institute is to produce and promote world-class research on Asia. ARI engages the social sciences and humanities broadly defined, and encourages especially multidisciplinary studies. Now home to six research clusters with a strong team of resident and visiting scholars, ARI works closely with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Business, Faculty of Law, and School of Design and Environment in NUS.

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## ARI RECOGNITION AND NEW BOOKS

**Assoc Prof Chee Heng Leng** was appointed ARI's Deputy Director from June 2006 to September 2007. As Deputy Director, A/P Chee will assist the Director in policy formulation and in overseeing the general administration of the Institute.

**Prof Chua Beng Huat** gave a keynote address entitled "Expanding Consumer Culture in Asia" at the Conference on Credit, Debt and Consumption in Indonesia, organized by the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) and The SMERU Research Institute, held in Jakarta on 10 January 2007.

**Prof Gavin Jones** gave a presentation in the plenary sessions of the: Australian Population Association 13th Biennial Conference — Population, Policy and Australia's Destiny on 5–8 December 2006, Adelaide, Australia; and at the International Conference on Emerging Population Issues in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges for the 21st Century on 10–13 December 2006, Grand Hyatt, Mumbai, India.

**Prof Binod Khadria** had a debate with Prof Johan Wets, on "Migration as Moving Human Capital: Who Reaps the Profits?" as part of interdisciplinary courses on International Development and Cultures, at the University of Antwerp, on 20 November 2006, and at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium on 21 November 2006. He has also been appointed as Member of the Editorial Board of the Asian and Pacific Migration Journal (APMJ).

**Dr Lai Ah Eng** was made member of the Associate Panel of the Social Research Network the Associate Panel of the Social Research Network coordinated by the Ministry of Community, Youth and Sports (MCYS).

**Dr Nicola Piper** delivered a keynote address on "Women and Migration" at the 11th International Metropolis Conference entitled "Paths & Crossroads: Moving People, Changing Places" held on 2–6 October 2006 at Lisbon, Portugal.

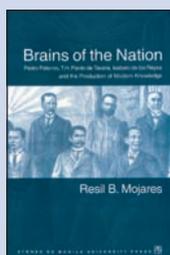
**Dr Stephen Teo** was a plenary speaker at the Thirteenth Biennial Conference of the Film and History Association of Australia and New Zealand held at the RMIT University in Melbourne Australia, 16–19 November 2006. Dr Teo's paper was on the subject of "History, Nation, Trans-Nation and the Wuxia Film".

**Prof Bryan Turner** gave the plenary lecture to the Australian Sociological Association in Perth on 5 December 2006. The lecture was called "The Enclave Society: Towards a Sociology of Immobility". He also gave a lecture as a keynote address on "Goods Not Gods: New Spiritualities, Consumerism and Religious Markets" on 26 February 2007 in London at a conference on 'Consumption and Generational Change' sponsored jointly by the Economic and Social Science Research and Humanities Councils.

**Dr Johannes Widodo** gave a keynote address entitled "The Chinese Diaspora and the Early Formation of Southeast Asian Urban Pattern: a Morphological Reading" at the International Conference on East Asian Architectural Culture: Reassessing East Asia in the Light of Urban and Architectural History (ReEA 2006), organized by the Executive Committee of the International Conference on East Asian Architectural Culture, held at Kyoto, Japan, 9 December 2006.

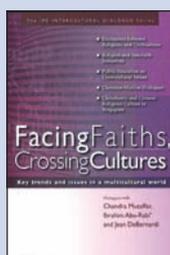
*Brains of the Nation*

**Resil B. Mojares**  
Ateneo De Manila University Press  
Manila  
2006

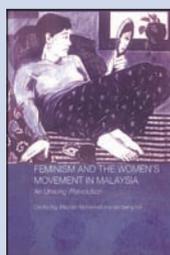


*Facing Faiths, Crossing Cultures: Key trends and issues in a multicultural world*

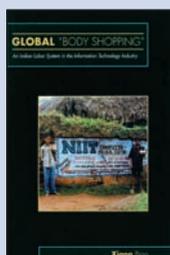
**Lai Ah Eng** (editor)  
Institute of Policy Studies  
Singapore  
2005



*Feminism and the Women's Movement in Malaysia: An Unsung (R)evolution*  
**Cecilia Ng, Maznah Mohamad**  
and tan beng hui (editors)  
Routledge  
Oxford  
2006



*Global "Body Shopping": An Indian Labor System in the Information Technology Industry*  
**Xiang Biao**  
Princeton University Press  
New Jersey  
2007



## ASIAN METACENTRE FOR POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS



### ARI-Asian Metacentre Project Meeting for Research Project, "Transnational Migration in South-East Asia and The Health of Children Left Behind" Funded by The Wellcome Trust, UK

#### National University of Singapore 10–12 January 2007

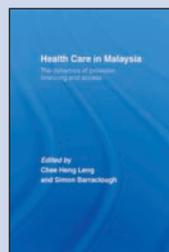
The research project "Transnational Migration in South-East Asia and the Health of Children Left Behind" started officially with a kick-off meeting that was held in Singapore recently. The meeting was attended by Principal Investigators Professor Brenda Yeoh (ARI) and Dr Elspeth Graham (University of St Andrews, UK), co-investigators Professor Paul Boyle (St Andrews); Dr Chee Heng Leng (ARI) and Associate Professor Wong Mee Lian (NUS), country collaborators Dr Sukamdi (The Centre for Population and Policy Studies, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia); Dr Maruja Asis (The Scalabrini Migration Center, The Philippines); Dr Aree Jampaklay (The Institute of Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Thailand) and Dr Dang N. Anh (The Institute of Sociology, Vietnamese Academy of Sciences, Vietnam). On hand to provide valuable statistical advice was statistician Dr Ian Wilson from the University of Reading, UK.

The meeting began with each country collaborator presenting an overview of the migration situation as well as an overview of existing migration studies in relation to the left behind in their respective countries. Next, Dr Ian Wilson shared with the group important lessons learnt from other multi-country surveys. He also gave a short presentation on some of the issues that the researchers need to address in the sampling strategy. On the second day, Dr Chee Heng Leng explained what anthropomorphic measurements entail and what each measurement will reveal about the health status of the child.

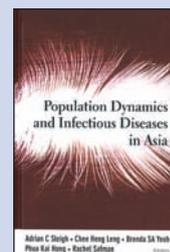
To wrap up the three-day preparatory meeting, Dr Elspeth Graham summarised the issues that were discussed during the meeting, decisions that were made as well as set the timeline and tasks for different persons involved. Overall, everyone who attended the meeting provided valuable inputs to the project and played a crucial role in the lively exchange of ideas across countries. Everyone was also enthusiastic in starting the research proper to gain a better understanding of the children left behind.

#### AMC New books

*Health Care in Malaysia: The Dynamics of Provision, Financing and Access*  
**Chee Heng Leng, Simon Barraclough** (editors)  
Routledge  
Malaysian Studies Series  
Malaysia  
2007



*Population Dynamics and Infectious Diseases in Asia*  
**Adrian C. Sleight, Chee Heng Leng, Brenda S.A. Yeoh, Phua Kai Hong, Rachel Safman** (editors)  
World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd.  
Singapore  
2006



## FORTHCOMING ARI EVENTS

### CALL FOR PAPERS 2ND SINGAPORE GRADUATE FORUM 26–28 July 2007

ARI invites applications from advanced postgraduate students who are engaged in research on Southeast Asia to submit abstracts based either on work in progress that is at an advanced stage, or on completed work. NUS students are encouraged to take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with students from ASEAN countries as well as those from other regions whose interests focus on Southeast Asia.

This two-day workshop, the second of an annual series of forums for graduate students who work on Southeast Asia, will be organised thematically around issues that include religion, international relations, politics, gender, and language.

In addition to student presentations, experts of the region will also be invited to give keynote speeches, sharing their insights on challenges and issues facing contemporary social science scholarship.

Registration fees and Singapore expenses will be covered for those whose abstracts are accepted for presentation. If necessary, students may also apply for some funding to cover regional travel costs.

Marking the completion of the ASEAN Research Scholars' Programme 2007, the Forum will also facilitate communication and cooperation among the postgraduate students as they mature into the next generation of academic leaders.

Graduate students should submit a 200-word abstract of their proposed paper using the Proposal Form which can be found on ARI's web page ([http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events\\_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=541](http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=541)), no later than 15 May 2007. The abstract should clarify the substantive issues which your paper will address and be firmly grounded in your own research project.

Please include your name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address and other contact information. One confidential letter of recommendation from a supervisor should also be forwarded to this address by the same date.

Those selected have to submit full-length papers, of around 5,000 words in length, by 06 July 2007.

Please send abstracts to Asia Research Institute at: [aribox3@nus.edu.sg](mailto:aribox3@nus.edu.sg) by 15 May 2007.

### THE CHANGING ASIAN FAMILY AS A SITE OF (STATE) POLITICS 26–27 April 2007

The conference aims to bring together scholars of Asia whose work interrogates the state-family relationship. We invite scholars to reflect on the complex political processes that produce "the Asian

family" and to analyse the consequences of these processes for state and society.

The rapidly changing face of Asia is perhaps most sharply represented in the changing composition, functions, and meanings of its families. Scholarship on the Asian family has highlighted the myriad ways in which changes in the organization of economic lives, demographic trends, social mobility opportunities, migration patterns and global cultural influences have affected the shape, form, and significance of "the family" in people's lives. Scholars have long acknowledged the family as an important site of state action within the context of these changes. The tendency remains, however, to conceptualise the family and the state as distinct entities — with the state impacting on the family — rather than formed in relation to each other. In this framework, the "public" state steps in to "interfere" with the "private" family only on specific "problems." In this way, despite the richness of this scholarship, studies of the family continue to stand somewhat outside larger debates about political systems and state-society relations. Contemporary Asian state actors also contribute to perpetuating a view of "the Asian family" as private and primordial, and hence, its own actions as ameliorative and apolitical.

This conference focuses on the relational formation of state and family by highlighting the complex and sometimes contradictory power struggles and negotiations that render possible or impossible particular definitions of the contemporary Asian family, as well as the consequences of these processes on larger questions of political culture and state-society relationships. We aim to bring together scholars of the region whose research investigates the politics of state-family relations through these questions: How are familial forms produced — what are the political processes that produce specific definitions of "family members," "family relations," and "familial responsibilities and rights"? On the other hand, what are the consequences of these political processes — on individuals, on civil society, on the state's own authority, and more broadly, on the texture and tone of power relations in society?

### IN SEARCH OF RECONCILIATION & PEACE IN INDONESIA WORKSHOP 19–20 July 2007

A number of Southeast Asian countries have been badly shaken in recent decades by religious, ethnic, social, political and economic conflicts. The search for reconciliation and peace is an important issue in the whole region. Promoting an interdisciplinary examination of one of the countries affected, Indonesia, this workshop goes beyond a mere political approach to reconciliation and offers new understandings of cultural reconciliation processes and factors, which both facilitate and inhibit reconciliation in different cultures. This will provide valuable insights not only for Indonesia, but for conflict situations much more broadly.

Continued on page 11

# Reflecting on Conflict and Complicity Among Christians and the State in Asia

How do Asian Christians deal with the nation-state today? This is the general question that motivated the International Conference entitled “Complicity and Conflict: Christianity and the State in Contemporary Asia” which was held at the Faculty Lounge, NUS Kent Ridge Campus on 10–12 January 2007. The event was organized by Dr. Julius Bautista of ARI’s Religion and Globalisation in Asian Contexts Cluster, and Dr. Francis Lim of the Department of Humanities at Nanyang Technological University.

The conference brought together scholars from diverse disciplinary and institutional backgrounds in Asia, including participants from the USA and Europe. The papers were united in their focus on how Christian churches and followers in the region negotiate their public roles and identities vis-à-vis various forms of states, particularly in the context of nation-building and socio-economic development. The conference culminated in a roundtable which comprised of specialists in Christianity in Asia, and was chaired by the Religion and Globalisation Cluster’s Research Leader, Professor Bryan Turner.

A major area of discussion during the conference was the social and political ramifications of Christian conversions and the ways in which apostasy rates impacted upon state policies on religion and ethnic relations. In particular, the papers on marginalised Christians in China and Vietnam were insightful in highlighting how Christian values either converge with, or diverge from, an authoritative state’s agenda. These papers demonstrated how the state enacts technologies of control and regulation over religious discourse and practice. But despite the challenges of political marginalisation, church organisations throughout much of the region have continued to promote activities — such as charity, education and commentary on public morality — that overlap on almost every level with the state’s discursive jurisdiction.



The manner in which Christians — particularly communities and individuals in South and Southeast Asia — negotiate their position within the state was also a key framework in the discussions. The discussions were contextualised in a number of examples, such as the significant increase in converts in Indonesia and Vietnam, Christian advocacy in public debates on National Day Parades in Singapore, Health Policies on HIV/AIDS and contraception in the Philippines, and expressions of religiosity in colonial Kerala. These papers, in various ways, raised important questions on the fluid relationship between Christianity and various state and non-state apparatuses. In doing so, however, the papers also effectively questioned the changing nature of the state in Asia, and cast a critical gaze on the extent of their efficacy particularly at a local level.

As per usual, ARI’s events coordination team contributed greatly to the success of the conference by ensuring that the conference ran smoothly and efficiently in spite of some last minute withdrawals. Dr. Bautista and Dr. Lim are currently working on converting the conference proceedings into an edited volume.

Continued from page 10

A lot has been said and written about violent conflict in Indonesia, investigating its different dimensions across disciplines. Unfortunately, reconciliation has caught much less attention by academics. Debates on reconciliation in Indonesia focus on human rights issues, justice and law enforcement and are heavily influenced by international NGOs and agencies such as the UN. This workshop strives to fill major gaps in reconciliation studies by exploring the cultural dimension of reconciliation in general and its specific forms in Indonesia.

The workshop aims to invite scholars from different academic disciplines such as social anthropology, sociology, law, political science, history and others from Indonesia and abroad. We invite both empirical case studies based on original fieldwork and theoretical reflections to be presented at the workshop. The workshop will cover reconciliation issues that deal with conflicts on different scales, in different contexts, in different regions and in different phases of contemporary Indonesian history.

# The First International Conference on Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies

24 – 27 February 2007  
Banda Aceh, Indonesia



ARI and the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Executing Agency for Aceh and Nias (BRR) organised the largest gathering of academics, intellectuals and members of the international development community ever assembled in Aceh in the First International Conference on Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies on 24–27 February 2007. It was the culmination of almost a year of effort by Professor Tony Reid, Assoc Prof Michael Feener, Dr Patrick Daly and the ARI administration team composed of Aidi Rahim and Alyson Rozells. The conference celebrated the importance of Aceh for its historical significance and its current position as a valuable source of information on conflict resolution and post disaster reconstruction efforts.

It is hoped that an international research centre in Aceh will emerge from the momentum of this conference, sustained by the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) in the Netherlands, École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO) in France and other interested institutions, in addition to ARI and the BRR.

The conference consisted of three days of academic papers and detailed discussion with six panels on:

- Seismology, Geology and Environmental Impact
- The History of Aceh and the Indian Ocean World
- Language, Culture and Society
- Post Tsunami Relief, Reconstruction, and Disaster Mitigation and Development
- Conflict Resolution, Peacemaking, and Democratization Issues
- Islam, Law and Society

Thirty academic papers were presented by a range of speakers from different academic institutions, as well as government and non-government organizations. The conference drew speakers from 15 nations, as well as participants and observers from at least 10 more. The newly elected governor of Aceh, Pak Irwandi Yusuf, the first to be elected under the Helsinki peace agreement, opened the conference, and was joined by a number of distinguished guests including several ambassadors, well known academics, heads of major NGOs, and other Acehnese and Indonesian government officials.

The programme also included film screenings, dinners, cultural events, tours around the tsunami affected areas of Aceh, and a special exhibit of manuscripts and old photographs donated by British, Dutch, Malaysian, Turkish, French, Danish, and Portuguese institutions. The exhibition was hosted at the Aceh Museum, and will remain there as a gift to the people of Aceh.

Overall, the conference was remarkably successful in bringing a rich concentration of interested parties together both to evaluate the progress of the past few years of change in Aceh, and to focus on ways to expand the scope of academic research in Aceh. We held meetings and sessions on the last day of the conference to bring together stakeholders and potential donors who are interested in supporting academic efforts in Aceh. Hopefully this will be the first step in the rebuilding of an open, cosmopolitan, academic community engaged fully with the wider world, and contributing to regional and global debates about issues that can be addressed from Aceh's experiences.

The conference was covered in detail in both the local Acehnese press, and in the national Indonesian press. In the spirit of the new democracy and civil society being built in Aceh, the conference was also protested by a number of local NGOs and organisations dissatisfied with the interaction between the Jakarta based BRR and local Acehnese. While slightly disconcerting for the organisers, it was a vivid indication of the new found freedom of the Acehnese, and the spirit of a people recovering from the trauma of conflict and natural disaster.

We hope that this will be the first of many conferences in Aceh, and that it will contribute towards Aceh remaining part of the international community. It was a true privilege that ARI was asked to help organise this event.