



# ARI NEWS

A newsletter of the Asia Research Institute, NUS

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## New ARI Director Appointed

We are pleased to announce that Professor Lily Kong will take over the ARI Directorship from Acting Director Professor Gavin Jones on 1 January 2008.

Presently, Professor Kong is Vice Provost (Education) at the National University of Singapore. She chairs the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) and her responsibilities include setting of educational directions and policies for the University, educational quality assurance, and overseeing academic and student matters in general. Professor Kong has been overseeing the academic development in the new residential college development at Warren, working with a team focusing on the physical infrastructural planning and development.

Professor Kong's tenure as ARI's Director will be held in tandem with a newly announced appointment as Vice President, University & Global Relations.

Professor Kong is a member of the Governing Board of the Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board; Selection Committee for the Asia-Europe Foundation Grants Committee; Board of Trustees of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies; Technical Research Advisor to the National Parks Board; Chair of the Stamp Advisory Committee; and Deputy Chair of the Research Panel, National Arts Council.

A graduate of the National University of Singapore and University College London, Professor Kong is a geographer and has been a faculty member in the NUS Department of Geography since 1991. She was the Sub-Dean, NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences from 1995 to 1996; Vice Dean from 1997 to 2000 and Dean from 2000 to 2004, when she became the University's Vice Provost (Education). Concurrently, from 2002 to 2003, she was Dean of the

University Scholars Programme. From 1998 to 1999, she was also Assistant Director, Office of Research.

Between 1997 and 2003, Professor Kong received five fellowship awards including the Commonwealth Fellowship Award and the Fulbright Fellowship Award. Between 1993 and 1997, she was twice a recipient of the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Teaching Excellence Award as well as the National Book Development Council of Singapore Book Award. She also received the NUS Outstanding University Researcher Award in 1997. Most recently, Professor Kong has been awarded the National Public Award (Public Administration Medal) in 2006.

Professor Kong is a member of 15 editorial boards, editorial advisory boards and committees. These include the journals *Asia-Pacific Viewpoint*, *Australian Geographical Studies*, *Material Religion*, *Progress in Human Geography*, and *Social and Cultural Geography*. She is also Commissioning Editor of *Children's Geographies*, as well as a series editor of *Pacific Rim Geographies: Studies on Contemporary Culture, Environment, Cities and Development* by Routledge. Additionally, she is Book Series Advisor for *The Politics of Popular Culture in Asia Pacific* (University of Illinois Press and Hong Kong University Press).

Even though Professor Kong has a busy administrative schedule she remains active and prolific in her academic areas of interest. Professor Kong's research focuses on religion, cultural policy and creative economy, and national identity. She has co-authored six books, co-edited six books, published 67 papers in international refereed journals, and contributed 27 chapters in books.

All members of ARI would like to extend a warm welcome to Professor Kong. We look forward to her arrival at ARI and wish her the best in her role as Director.

## WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Professor Gavin Jones Acting Director

#### Variety and Collaboration



As I write this, the program of seminars for the past two weeks is in front of me. We have had a very varied diet: a well attended roundtable on Malayness in Singapore, jointly organised with the Department of Malay Studies, a seminar on the historical origins of international identity documentation, jointly organised with the Department of

History, another on global gurus and the 'de-ethnicisation' of Hinduism in the United States and Singapore, another entitled "Will Indonesia reject neo-liberalism?" and another on top-down versus bottom up approaches in research methods, jointly organised with the Department of Architecture. A seminar on Malaysia presented by the UNDP Resident Representative, Dr. Richard Leete, was jointly sponsored by ARI and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). It was held in ARI but chaired by Ambassador Kesavapany, Director of ISEAS.

In the same week, the Bukit Timah Campus Public Lecture was presented by Professor Ziba Mir-Hosseini, sponsored by the Faculty of Law. This was one of four Bukit Timah lectures to be held each semester. The Faculty of Law, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, ARI and the East Asian Institute, each organises one of these lectures. ARI's turn will be in November, and our lecture will be presented by Professor Leonard Andaya.

During the same two-week period, ARI also hosted the Workshop on Female Labor Migration in Globalising Asia: Translocal / Transnational Identities and Agencies, another in a busy program of workshops, seminars and conferences.

All this is to say that, in our new quarters in Bukit Timah, we are maintaining a varied and exciting program of seminars, and we are continuing to collaborate with other departments and faculties of NUS, as well as with institutions such as ISEAS. As planned from the beginning, these seminars attract an audience from ARI itself, from our neighbours on the Bukit Timah campus, from the Kent Ridge campus (though not of course in the numbers we were able to attract when located there), and also from other parts of Singapore.

Another key thrust of ARI in recent times has been to develop large research proposals and seek outside funding. Three such proposals have been developed this year, and have been cleared by the URC and ORE for submission to the

MOE Tier 2 competition for funding. These proposals are, respectively, on Aceh (reconstituting society in a traumatized environment), on the Cold War in Asia, and on the state, culture and politics in commercially arranged international marriages. Of course, we do not yet know whether they will be successful in attracting funds, but in any case, the strategy of developing large collaborative research projects will continue. ARI must prove that it is able to attract such outside funds to justify continuation of the substantial core funding provided by NUS.

ARI has the task of building productive collaborative relationships with the NUS faculties it has been mandated to work with, as well as to build and maintain relationships with the key university centres around the world involved in Asian studies, as well as those not specifically working on Asian Studies, but doing research that resonates with the issues and interests that are vital in the Asian context. This we seek to do through our conference and seminar programme, and through our visitors program, both of which help to maintain close contacts with scholars around the world working on areas of mutual interest. This year we again held a very successful ASEAN scholars program, bringing to Singapore, for three months, 27 graduate students from ASEAN countries and two from China working on Asian topics. This program assists those graduate students chosen to complete quality theses, and helps to develop close links between ARI and the next generation of academic leaders in the region. This program climaxed in the second Singapore Graduate Students' Forum, an event already on the calendar of graduate students from many countries working on Asian topics.

ARI faces many challenges in pursuing its strategies. For one thing, we have few longer-term appointees, who can serve as Principal Investigators for major research projects and can take on the supervision of PhD candidates. Such appointments are crucial in providing ongoing leadership in ARI and developing a well-balanced program. One way to increase the pool of potential Principal Investigators is to make more joint appointments with the Faculties, with the potential to be tenured there.

Before ending this brief message, let me warmly welcome the incoming Director of ARI, Professor Lily Kong, whose task it will be to lead ARI from the beginning of 2008. Professor Kong is very highly regarded both academically and for her wealth of administrative experience. I am sure she will be able to position ARI for an even brighter future within the NUS.

## RECENT ARI EVENTS

### Conference on In Search of Reconciliation and Peace in Indonesia and East Timor

18 – 20 July 2007



In search of reconciliation and peace in Indonesia and East Timor, scholars from Asia, Australia, Europe and the United States came together at the NUS at the Kent Ridge Campus from 18-20 July 2007. The conference, sponsored by the Asia Research Institute (ARI), was supported by the Indonesia Study Group and organised by Dr Birgit Bräuchler (ARI).

While violence and conflict have been prominent topics on the research agenda for Indonesia and East Timor for a long time, the multiple dimensions of reconciliation and peace have attracted much less attention. Debates on reconciliation in Indonesia and East Timor focus on human rights issues, justice and law enforcement and are heavily influenced by international NGOs and agencies such as the UN. This highly interdisciplinary conference aimed to go beyond a mere political and legal approach to reconciliation and offer new understandings of bottom-up reconciliation approaches and the cultural dimension of reconciliation. These alternative dimensions of reconciliation have so far been neglected both in the literature and in national and international peace interventions, not only in Indonesia and East Timor, but worldwide.

The publication of selected conference papers will fill major gaps in the literature on reconciliation in Indonesia and East Timor and on conflict, peace and a more general transitional justice.

### Asia Trends 2007: Tracing the Role of Women in Asian Religion

29 June – 2 July 2007

National Library of Singapore



Each year, the Asia Research Institute holds the Asia Trends Conference in order to bring together leading speakers on an important theme. In 2007, Asia Trends was placed under

the leadership of Professor Bryan Turner and A/Professor Michael Feener who, with the assistance of Dr. Julius Bautista, organised the conference around the theme of "Women and Religion in Asia". The workshop was held at the National Library of Singapore from 29 June to 2 July.

The conference brought together both leading international and national women speakers who were asked to address the historical and contemporary role of women in religion. The two key speakers on this topic were Professor Barbara Watson Andaya who is the Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Saba Mahmood who is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Andaya's lecture defended a tradition of comparative research which she thought was essential for studying women in different Asian societies. At the end of the conference, Professor Mahmood gave an arresting and provocative talk on western images of Muslim women in novels, the press and film, arguing that aspects of religious reform in Islam are not necessarily anti-women and the deep secular prejudice of much western scholarship prevented western academics from understanding pious Muslim women in particular.

The conference as a whole illustrated the diversity and importance of women's spirituality in Asia, and also underlined the common problems women face in getting their voices heard within the religious communities and institutions of the region.

### The Second Singapore Graduate Students' Forum on Southeast Asia Studies

26-27 July 2007



The Graduate Students' Forum on Southeast Asia Studies is a yearly opportunity for graduate students to present their work-in-progress or completed work at a forum. This year, 70 graduate students presented papers, including the 29 ASEAN scholars who were already at ARI for their three-month programme. Participants came from Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Myanmar, China, India, United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom. A total of 163 people participated, 70 of whom were speakers and presenters.

Each day started and ended with a keynote address. Prof Anthony Reid kicked off the forum with a lecture on *Nationalism and Political Identity in Southeast Asia*, in which he delineated four typologies of nationalism – ethnic nationalism, state nationalism, anti-imperialism nationalism, and anti-foreign populism. These were used to discuss the different ways in which colonial powers ruled and conducted their affairs over Southeast Asian polities. At the end of

## RECENT ARI EVENTS

the first day, Prof Brenda Yeoh gave the second keynote speech titled *Gender and Migration: Negotiating 'family', the 'nation-state' and 'civil society'*, provided a wide-ranging view of migrations and mobilities in contemporary Southeast Asia, and how these movements are gendered, with specific implications arising out of these gendered differences. The second day began with Dr. Geoffrey Benjamin's lecture *Indigenism, Indigeneity, Exogeny: What's the Difference and Why does it Matter?* which was a thought-provoking interrogation of the dimensions of indigeneity and exogeny as it applies to today's societies. The final keynote lecture *Am I really a "Southeast Asianist"? The Dilemmas and Potentialities of Regional Studies* delivered by Prof. Barbara Watson Andaya, made a strong case for scholars in Southeast Asian Studies to venture into comparative research, which can lead to new scholarly insights on the region.

Paper topics included disease prevention, religion, local communities and human rights, gender, historiography, cyberworld, terrorism and resource management. There was also a pedagogical panel *On Writing*, where three scholars at their early academic careers shared their experiences in writing.

The forum ended with a certificate-award ceremony, a dinner, and an evening of impromptu performances by the participants. We hope that this experience would be memorable and an invaluable one for all participants.

### Graduate Workshop on Piety and Pietization in Asia

9-10 July 2007



A Graduate Workshop on "Piety and Pietization in Asia" was held on 9-10 July 2007, bringing together postgraduate students from the humanities and social sciences who are working on all aspects of religion, spirituality and piety in modern societies. The workshop explored various forms of religious renewal and revival in Asia, particularly in the case of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and various popular religious movements. The conference was convened by Professor Bryan Turner, Research Leader of Religion and Globalization Cluster and by Dr Noorhaidi Hasan, a former post-doctoral fellow in ARI.

To start off a rich variety of stimulating student presentations, the workshop was opened by Professor Turner who gave a keynote speech on the idea of piety in modern research

and the complex relationships between piety and politics. In recent social science discussions of religion, there has been growing criticism of catch-all labels such as 'fundamentalism' or 'radicalism'. One problem is that these labels are taken explicitly from western (Christian) history and, secondly, are now inevitably entangled with 'political Islam' and *jihadism*. In attempting to redress this situation, the spirit of the workshop took inspiration from the work of Saba Mahmood, whose influential book on *Politics of Piety* attempts to achieve an internal hermeneutical reading of pious female practice while avoiding assumptions about the inevitable secularisation of modern societies and the subordination of women in religious revivalism. Professor Turner similarly argued that we need alternative, more sensitive methods of discussing forms of religious revivalism, renewal and development that do not necessarily have these political connotations. The postgraduate student papers presented at this workshop revealed a common enthusiasm to pursue this more nuanced way of conceptualising piety and religion.

### Workshop on Female Labor Migration in Globalizing Asia: Translocal/ Transnational Identities and Agencies

13-14 September 2007



The International Workshop on Female Labor Migration in Globalizing Asia: Trans-local/Trans-national Identities and Agencies, supported by ARI and the Asian Meta Centre, was successfully convened on 13-14 September 2007.

Workshop participants from the US, Australia, Japan, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Singapore presented interesting papers that addressed the myriad ways in which gender, as it intersects with other forms of inequality, conditions women's incorporation into global capitalism as well as local and regional economies. They considered, for example, how gender figures into personal and family migration decisions and expectations, labour recruitment and production processes, the global stratification and commodification of care work, and national and regional policy. At the same time, their papers considered Asian migrant women workers' experiences, identities and agencies, and lessons to be learned from this "looking through their eyes" perspective that helps better theorise gender and power in globalising Asia. The workshop organiser, Dr Arianne Gateano, was pleased with the range of research and depth of analysis presented. Publication plans for selected workshop papers are underway.

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## NEW ARI MEMBERS

**Ms Deborah Chua Fengyi** has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Research Assistant starting on 2 July 2007.



Deborah obtained a B.A. (Hon.) degree in English Language from the National University of Singapore. Prior to joining ARI, she was with the Centre for Research in Pedagogy and Practice, National Institute of Education where she worked as a Research Assistant on the Intervention in the Teaching of Expository Writing project. She also has prior experience in social service planning and policy-related work through her earlier work as a Senior Executive with the National Council of Social Service. Deborah is currently pursuing her MA research on the cognitive causes of digression in student expository writing and its relation to Asian discourse practices.

While at ARI, she will be providing editorial assistance to the institute's working paper series and book chapter manuscripts.

**Ms Saharah bte Abubakar** has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Research Assistant with effect from 10 July 2007.



Saharah graduated from the National University of Singapore with a M.A. in Language Studies. She also holds a B.Soc. Sc.(Hon.) degree, having pursued a double major at NUS, in English Language and Social Work. Her honours thesis explored the social networks and resilience of divorced Malay mothers. Before joining ARI, she taught for six years in primary and secondary schools, and English language to foreign learners in a polytechnic.

While at ARI, she will be providing editorial assistance to various book volumes and the ARI Annual Report.

**Prof Joanne Waghorne** has commenced a 1-year appointment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow (Religion Cluster) with effect from 1 August 2007.



Prof Waghorne received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in History of Religions and South Asian Studies and is currently Professor of Religion at Syracuse University. She studies the interrelation of globalisation and religion in the context of contemporary Hindu organisations and movements in India and the diaspora.

Her recent book *Diaspora of the Gods: Modern Hindu Temples in an Urban Middle-Class* won the 2005 American Academy of Religion award for excellence in analytical-descriptive studies of religion. Her other publications include *The Raja's Magic Clothes: Re-visioning Kingship and Divinity in England's India* (1994) as well as an earlier study of epic retelling and politics in the life of the South Indian statesman, C. Rajagopalachari and as a edited volume on the worship of the divine image in India.

While at ARI she will be working with the Globalisation and Religion Cluster on "global gurus" and the multi-ethnic organisations that form around them.

**Dr Hiroko Matsuda** has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow (Open Category) with effect from 10 August 2007.



Dr Matsuda earned her Ph.D. in History at The Australian National University in 2007. She received her Masters degree from the University of Tokyo and Bachelors degree from Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan in 1999.

Dr Matsuda's research interests includes the social history of 20th century Northeast Asia, colonialism, migration and gender studies, covering areas in Northeast Asia, in particular Taiwan and Japan.

**Prof I Nyoman Sedana** has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Visiting Research Fellow in the SEA-China Interactions Cluster with effect from 27 Aug 2007.



Prof Sedana earned his Ph.D. in Drama and Theatre Art from the University of Georgia, U.S.A. He was a Visiting Artist at the University of Manoa, Honolulu, in January 2007 and a Visiting Professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts, Ohio University from April to June 2006 before he joined ARI.

His areas of research include Asia Traditional (Puppet) theatre in its socio-cultural context, cross-cultural interaction, values of Humanism and Multiculturalism in puppet theatre, and Bali as the meeting-point of cross-cultural movements and the link between Indian and Chinese culture. While at ARI, Prof Sedana will be studying Chinese puppet theatre's Influence on Southeast Asia Performance Arts.

**Dr Wasana Wongsurawat** has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow (Southeast Asia China Cluster) with effect from 3 September 2007.



Dr Wongsurawat obtained her Master and Ph.D. degrees in Chinese History from the University of Oxford. Her first degree was in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago.

Her research interest is in the history of the overseas Chinese in Thailand and the geographical area of her focus is China and Thailand. While at ARI, she will be researching on the history of overseas Chinese in Thailand during the Cold War Period.

**Dr Rachel Rinaldo** has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Religion and Globalisation Cluster with effect from 5 September 2007.



Dr Rinaldo obtained her M.A. in Social Science and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago. Her areas of research interest include gender, religion, globalisation and the nation-state with Indonesia as her geographical area of focus.

## NEW ARI MEMBERS

While at ARI, she will be turning her 2007 dissertation "Mobilizing Piety: Women, Islam, and the Public Sphere in Indonesia" into a book manuscript. She will also be working on several journal articles, including one entitled "Envisioning the Nation: Women Activists, Religion, and the State in Indonesia."

**Prof Allen Chun** has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Cultural Studies Cluster with effect from 10 September 2007.

Prof Chun obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in anthropology from the University of Chicago.

He is currently a Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan and a Joint Professor for the Institute for Cultural and Social Research, National Chiaotung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan. His research and teaching interests include socio-cultural theory, national identity, colonial formations, globalisation and Chinese societies.

While at ARI, he will complete his research on "Identity as Geopolitical Process; Discursive Origins of Cosmopolitanism in Hong Kong".

**Dr Vu Tuong Huu** to ARI has commenced a 10-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the SEA-China Interactions Cluster with effect from 10 Sep 2007.

He obtained his Ph.D. in Political Science (2004) from the University of California, Berkeley and his MPA from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University.

He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Oregon. His research interests include state formation, revolution, nationalism, rural development, Cold War foreign policy, politics of scholarship, research methods and his geographical area of focus is in Southeast Asia, particularly, Indonesia and Vietnam.

While at ARI, he plans to conduct fieldwork for a book project on ideology, identity, and foreign policy of North Vietnam during the cold war. He also plans to organise a conference on the cold war in Asia.

**Dr Janice Newberry** has commenced a 6-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Changing Family Cluster with effect from 13 September 2007.

She obtained her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology (1997) from the University of Arizona and her M.A. in International Studies from the University of Wyoming. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Anthropology Department, University of Lethbridge.

Her 1992 ethnographic research on the Indonesian national housewives organisation (Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga or PKK) and its relationship to state formation, gender, and domestic labour appears in *Back Door Java: State Formation and the Domestic in Working Class Java* (2006, Broadview Press).

Her current research concerns the emergence of new childhoods and expert systems on childhood and their relationship to concepts of power and person in Java.

**Prof Leonard Andaya** has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Open Category with effect from 18 Sep 2007.

He obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in Southeast Asian history from Cornell University. His first degree, B.A. in History was obtained from Yale University.

He is currently a Professor in the Department of History at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. He teaches courses on Southeast Asian history and senior research seminar on Asia and the Pacific.

While at ARI, he plans to do research and publish a book on history of modern Southeast Asia.

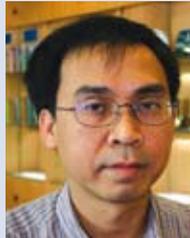
**Ms Joyce Zaide** has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Research Assistant with effect from 24 Sep 2007.

Joyce received her M.A. in Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore. Before joining ARI, she worked as researcher/analyst at the Office of Strategic and Special Studies, Armed Forces of the Philippines (OSS, AFP). At OSS, she was involved in conducting research and preparing briefing materials and reports on defence and security issues. She also acted as copyeditor for OSS publications which includes the Digest and the monograph entitled ARF: A Regional Experience (an OSS Research series on the ASEAN Regional Forum). Her research interests include media, communication and gender studies.

**Dr Francis Collins** has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Migration Cluster with effect from 27 Sep 2007.

Dr Collins obtained his M.A. in Sociology and Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Auckland.

His area of research includes Urban Studies, Everyday Geographies, Migration and International Education. While at ARI, he will be preparing parts of his doctoral thesis for publication. In addition, he will also begin a new research project investigating the practices and experiences of international students in Singapore and the role of international education in globalizing processes in this city.



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## LIFE AFTER ARI

**Noorhaidi Hasan** is now teaching at the Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University of Yogyakarta in Indonesia.

**Binod Khadria** has returned to the Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, after two years of fellowship with ARI.

**Kwee Hui Kian** has just joined the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies and the Department of Historical Studies of the University of Toronto in Canada as Assistant Professor.

**Noburu Ishikawa** has returned to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies in Kyoto University, Japan.

**Duncan McCargo** has returned to the School of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds, UK after a year as fellow with ARI.

**Jiang Na** is now the coordinator of online advertising for an Internet-based company called biglabels.de.

**George Souza** is back as Associate Professor (adjunct) at the Department of History, University of Texas-San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, USA.

He has also been appointed a Helen Watson Buckner Memorial Fellowship at the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island for September-November 2007.

He was also appointed as Visiting Research Scholar at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University for June - November 2008.

**Zheng Yangwen** is now a Lecturer of Modern Chinese History beginning 1 February 2007 at the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures and Centre for Chinese Studies, University of Manchester, UK.

### New ARI Members Continued from page 6

**Dr Santi Therese Rozario** has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Religion & Globalisation Cluster with effect from 1 October 2007.



She obtained her M.A. (Hons) Qualifying (Sociology) and Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the University of New South Wales. Her first degree, B.A. (Hons) in Sociology is from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Cardiff University and has completed an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded research project on "Genetics, Religion and Identity" in June 2007.

While at ARI, Dr Rozario plans to develop further some material from several recent research projects, each of which raised issues concerning modernist religion (mainly Islam and Christianity) and its impact on women and the family in Bangladesh and/or the UK.

**Prof Dennis Cheng** has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Religion & Globalisation Cluster with effect from 9 October 2007.



He obtained his B.A, M.A. and Ph.D, in Chinese Literature from the National Taiwan University. He is currently a principal investigator on the research project "Innovative and Inter-disciplinary Program in Contemporary Interpretations of Canonical Texts" by the Ministry of Education.

His areas of research interest are on Yijing and intellectual history of late Imperial China. His areas of geographical focus are China and East Asia.

While at ARI, he will be doing research work on Yijing culture in the East and West.

### Recent ARI Events Continued from page 4

## The Cold War in Asia Project



The Cold War in Asia Project continues to gain momentum, as recent events brought together researchers working on Cold War Asia - and particularly Southeast Asia- from around the world. The second planning Roundtable to investigate agenda for future Cold War in Asia research was convened on 28 June 2007. Speakers included William Kirby from Harvard University and other scholars from China, Vietnam, Thailand

and Burma. Issues addressed were those slated for future conferences, including the importance of 1948 in defining the Southeast Asia Cold War, the roles of Southeast Asians of Chinese descent, new archival sources, decolonisation and its relationship with the Cold War, cultural revolutions during the Cold War, and Southeast Asia and China in the overall international framework during the period.

The European Association of Southeast Asian Studies (EUROSEAS) convened its triennial conference this year in Naples and the Southeast Asia-China Interactions Cluster organised a general panel on the Cold War in Southeast Asia. Chaired by Anthony Reid and Geoff Wade, under the rubric of "The Cold War in Southeast Asia 1945-1990: New Sources and Interpretations".

For 2008, two Cold War Project conferences will be convened - one in March, entitled "The Cold War in Asia: The Cultural Dimension", in mid-2008, marking the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Malayan Emergency, to examine the year 1948 and the origins of the Cold War in Southeast Asia.

## NOTICE OF NEW APPOINTMENTS

Applications are invited for (Senior) Research Fellowships, Postdoctoral Fellowships and one-year (Senior) Visiting Fellowships, at the Asia Research Institute (ARI) for commencement between July 2008 and December 2008.

The positions are intended for outstanding active researchers from both the Asian region and the world, to bring to completion an important program of research in the social sciences and humanities. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged. "Asia" as a research field is defined loosely in terms of the region in which Singapore is positioned. Up to three months of a 12-month fellowship can be spent conducting fieldwork in the Asian region.

A majority of the positions will be allocated to the more specific areas listed below. However some will be reserved for outstanding projects in any area. Applicants should mention which category they are applying in or if none, write "open category". Applications which link two specific fields are also welcome.

### Terms And Conditions

1. **(Senior) Research Fellow** The appointment will be tenable for a period of two years at the first instance, with the possibility of extension for another term of two years. The fellowship comes with a competitive remuneration and benefits package, depending on seniority, in the range SGD 4,000 to SGD 14,500 per month.

Application deadline: 31 December 2007

2. **Postdoctoral Fellowships** Candidates must have fulfilled all requirements of the PhD within the last 4 years. The research may be in any field in the humanities and social sciences, extending into legal, commercial and environmental concerns. The salary package is SGD 4,500 per month (inclusive of housing allowance for expatriate staff who do not own properties in Singapore), with a one-time relocation allowance of SGD 2,000, and support for fieldwork and conference attendance.

Application deadline: 31 December 2007

3. **(Senior) Visiting Fellowships** have a normative tenure of one year, though shorter periods may be negotiated. A competitive remuneration and benefits package, depending on seniority, will be provided, with (except in exceptional cases) a ceiling of SGD 12,000 a month.

Application deadline: 15 January 2007

### Areas Of Research Focus

1. **The Changing Family in Asia** (Convenor: Prof Gavin Jones) explores the dimensions of family change in the region, their causes and implications. These dimensions include rising ages at marriage, declining size of the nuclear family, increase in one-person households and alternative family forms, changing gender roles within families, and changes in family structures. They are studied in the context of the changing political-economic structures and changing state/family roles in provision of services and support.
2. **Asian Migration** (Convenor: Prof 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, unskilled labour migration (both documented and undocumented), and human trafficking all raise methodological and theoretical questions and major policy issues, as does the role of migration in development and change.

3. **Religion and Globalisation in Asian Contexts** (Convenor: Prof Bryan Turner) explores the changing patterns of religious belief, practice, and identity in recent times, particularly in Southeast Asia. The title implies a general interest in transnational and diasporic communities, engagement with modern technologies and values, as well as new global or "glocal" forms of religious activities and institutions. More specifically the cluster looks at modern forms of filial piety and the interactions between politics and religion. In addition to these substantive research areas, the cluster promotes the interdisciplinary research involving the study of social and cultural theories and diverse methodological approaches to the academic study of religion.

4. **Cultural Studies in Asia** (Convenor: Prof Chua Beng Huat) is an emerging field of academic research in Asia which is challenging conventional disciplinary boundaries to rethink received knowledge on existing issues and/or to address new topics and concerns thrown up by the rapid changes and impact on cultural practices, brought about by new technologies and the new phase of global capitalism. This research cluster focuses on comparative and pan-Asian popular culture practices in different spheres of everyday life.

5. **Southeast Asia-China Interactions** (Convenor: Prof Anthony Reid) The post-Cold War revival of the links which had long connected Southeast Asia with (greater) China is one of the most obvious of recent regional trends. Understanding the changes now taking place as well as the growing interdependencies and alliances which are emerging demand that we examine these linkages through both contemporary and historical lenses. The most historically-oriented of ARI's clusters, this focus has spawned particular projects on the Cold War in Asia, on Southeast Asian Archeology, and on reconstruction and heritage in Aceh.

6. **Open Category** (Convenor: Prof Gavin Jones) While any research institute must focus its work on certain particular frontiers on which it hopes to make a difference, ARI has also kept its doors open to talented people, exciting ideas and worthwhile projects across the whole spectrum of the social sciences. Many of our most exciting visitors have been in what we call the "open" cluster, to ensure this openness to ideas remains. Applications are welcomed in any field, and especially for projects that are innovative and interdisciplinary.

### Invitation To Apply

Interested applicants are invited to **email/mail** their applications, consisting of:

- i) Application form;
- ii) Curriculum Vitae;
- iii) Synopsis of the proposed research project (no restriction on the number of pages);
- iv) At least one sample of published work;
- v) Ensure that at least two referees submit directly to us (email is acceptable) a confidential report on the applicant's academic standing and on their research project by the **respective closing deadline**.

We regret that only successful candidates will be informed. Candidates who do not hear from the University within 8 weeks after closing date of the advertisement may assume the post has been filled.

Address for submission of applications and references:

Human Resources  
c/o Ms Chong Mei Peen  
Asia Research Institute  
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## ARI RECOGNITION AND NEW BOOKS

**Dr Birgit Brauchler** was awarded a fellowship at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) in Leiden, Netherlands from October to December 2007.

**Prof Chua Beng Huat** gave the keynote address entitled "From Small Objects to Cars: Consumption Expansion in East Asia" for the International Workshop on Globalizing Lifestyles between McDonaldization and Sustainability: The case of the New Middle Classes at the University of Bremen, Germany, 4-5 October 2007.

**Dr Maznah Mohamad** gave a keynote speech entitled "Islam in Malaysia Today: Between Peace and Conflict" on 25 June 2007 at the International Conference on Religion and Culture organised by the Institute of Religion, Culture and Peace, Payap University, Chiangmai, Thailand.

**Prof Anthony Reid** delivered the keynote address entitled "Nationalism and Political Identity in Southeast Asia" for the 2nd Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia Studies, ARI, NUS, Singapore, 26 July 2007.

**Dr Mika Toyota** gave a lecture entitled "Migration of the Elderly: Patterns in Asia" for the Migration and Development Series of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, New York, USA, 1 October 2007.

**Dr Johannes Widodo** provided the keynote address entitled "Exploring Our City, Nurturing Sense of Belonging" for the Mubin Sheppard Memorial Prize 2006/2007 Lecture and Awards

Ceremony in Badan Warisan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27 July 2007.

He was also invited to be a Nominator for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture of the Aga Khan Development Network, and for the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes by the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes Committee in Fukuoka, Japan. He is also serving as a Jury with the UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand.

**Prof Brenda Yeoh** delivered a keynote presentation entitled "Gender and Migration: Negotiating 'Family', The 'Nation-State' and 'Civil Society'" at the 2nd Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia Studies, 26-27 July 2007, Asia Research Institute, Singapore.

She is also a member of the Economic and Social Research Network (ESRN) and the Chair of the REACH Policy Support Workgroup (PSW) on Population and Integration for two years since September 2007.

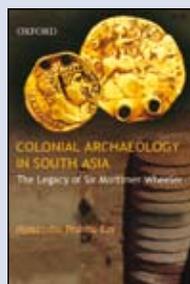
Congratulations and best wishes to

**Kristy Won** and husband for the safe delivery of **Kieron Ang** on 8 August 2007

**Tran Thi Que Ha** and husband for the safe delivery of her baby girl **Tran Que Vy** on 17 September 2007



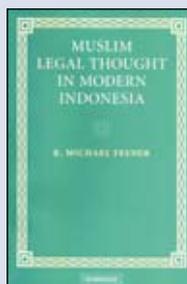
## New Books



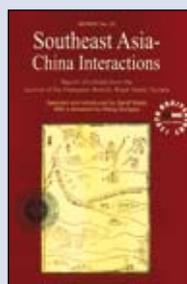
*Colonial Archaeology in South Asia: The Legacy of Sir Mortimer Wheeler*  
**Himanshu Prabha Ray**  
Oxford University Press, New Delhi 2007



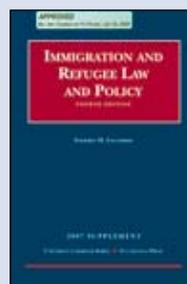
*Elections as Popular Culture in Asia*  
**Chua Beng Huat** (editor)  
Routledge, New York 2007



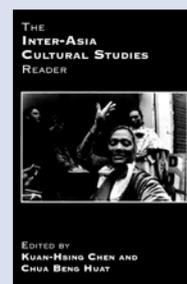
*Muslim Legal Thought in Modern Indonesia*  
**R. Michael Feener**  
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2007



*Southeast Asia - China Interactions, Reprint of Articles from the Journal of The Malaysian Branch, Royal Asiatic Society*  
Selected and introduced by **Geoff Wade**  
With a foreword by Wang Gungwu  
The Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society 2007



*Supplement to Fourth Edition of Immigration and Refugee Law and Policy*  
**Stephen H. Legomsky**  
Foundation Press, New York 2007



*The Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Reader*  
**Kuan-Hsing Chen and Chua Beng Huat** (editors)  
Routledge, London 2007

## ASIAN METACENTRE NEWS

### CHAMPSEA (Children's Health and Migrant Parents in Southeast Asia) Project

Funded by the Wellcome Trust, UK  
Second Project Meeting  
Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
21 – 25 July 2007

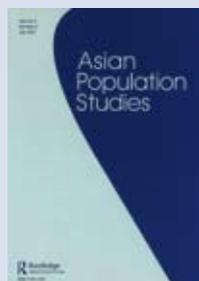
The research team for the CHAMPSEA project held a second meeting at ARI. The meeting was attended by Principal Investigators Professor Brenda Yeoh (ARI) and Dr Elspeth Graham (University of St Andrews, UK), co-investigators Dr Chee Heng Leng (ARI) and Associate Professor Wong Mee Lian (NUS), in-country coordinators Dr Sukamdi (The Centre for Population and Policy Studies, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia); Dr Maruja Asis (The Scalabrini Migration Center, The Philippines); Dr Patama Vapattanawong (The Institute of Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Thailand) and Dr Dang N. Anh (Vietnam's Asia-Pacific Centre of Hanoi, Vietnam), statistician Dr Ian Wilson from the University of Reading, UK and Research Assistant Ms Theodora Lam (AMC, ARI). The team welcomed two new members on board the project, Postdoctoral Fellows Dr Lucy Jordan (based in the University of St Andrews) and Dr Andiara Schwingel (based in AMC, ARI).

The in-country coordinators started the meeting by presenting an overview of the selected research sites in their respective countries. The team then proceeded to finalise several important aspects of the research such as definitions, questions in the surveys and sampling strategy. By the end of the five-day meeting, the team was ready to embark on the pilot study in the four countries.



### Recent Publications

"Skilled Diasporas in Asian Development" – another special issue containing papers presented at the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia: Critical Issues for a Sustainable Future held in March 2006 has been published. It appeared in Asian Population Studies (Volume 3, Issue 2, July 2007) and was guest edited by Binod Khadria.



## ARI SPECIAL FEATURE

### Stephen Legomsky

John S. Lehmann University  
Professor, Washington  
University School of Law, USA  
Visiting Senior Research  
Fellow  
June – December 2007



Working on four main projects since commencing my fellowship at ARI, I have completed a 60-page article that will be published in 2008 by the Stanford Law Review. The article addresses the inconsistency that has plagued the adjudication of asylum claims in the United States. The inconsistency has been especially evident with respect to Chinese asylum seekers; in Los Angeles, for example, the approval rate for Chinese asylum seekers ranges from 9% (some adjudicators) to 81% (others). The article explores the effects of inconsistent adjudication on justice, efficiency, predictability, and acceptability. It then identifies the root causes of inconsistent adjudication, suggests ways to enhance uniformity at the margins, and cautions that more dramatic inroads into inconsistent asylum adjudication – such as curbing the independence of the adjudicators – can be accomplished only with strategies wherein social costs would exceed the benefits. I conclude that, for the most part, we shall therefore have to learn to live with some measure of unequal justice.

I have also now completed a 50-page book chapter on asylum and the rule of law in the USA. The chapter will appear in a book edited by Professor Susan Kneebone of Monash University on comparative asylum law and policy and the rule of law. It will be published by the Cambridge University Press in 2008.

In November, I shall be spending one week in South Korea, at the invitation of the Minister of Justice, to advise the Minister and his staff on the expansion of their immigration program. South Korea, like many Asian nations, has an aging population and a likely future deficit of skilled workers. The major challenge in this country is that of liberalising immigration while integrating the newcomers into Korean society is the major challenge. I will also be giving lectures at several Korean law schools.

Currently, I am about to research the role of family reunification in Singaporean immigration law and policy. Because a country's family migration policies affect the lives of its citizens and their foreign family members, and because those same policies reflect the country's larger values and priorities, I seek to explore several dimensions of Singaporean law and practice. These include the criteria for offering permanent residence, as distinguished from temporary visits, to family members of Singaporean citizens; whether the immigrants themselves may sponsor their family members; which family members qualify; what limitations are imposed; whether these limitations foster irregular migration; what integration measures are in place, including permission to work, language instruction, and eligibility for eventual

naturalisation; the practical gender implications of family reunification policy; and the impact of immigration on the ethnic composition of the resulting society.

In addition to those major projects, I shall be giving at least two seminars. My ARI seminar will focus on so-called "secondary refugee movements". These are the movements of refugees after they have fled their countries of origin, have found temporary safe haven in "third countries," and have now begun their journeys to the countries where they plan to apply for asylum and hope to resettle permanently. Several Asian states have become particularly important countries of origin, third countries, or even ultimate destination countries; sometimes countries become two or more of these at the same time. Many of the ultimate destination states, mainly developed countries, are now reacting by refusing even to consider asylum claims filed by certain refugees who have spent time in third countries en route, arguing that the responsibility for deciding those claims should properly rest with the third countries. These practices have caused huge problems for the asylum claimants, for the third countries, and sometimes for regional stability. As a result, I have been commissioned by the UNHCR recently to write a consultant's report, analysing precisely when international law – and sound practice – justify the return of asylum seekers to third countries. That report has since been published and will form the basis for my ARI seminar.

I shall also be giving a seminar at the NUS law faculty, on the subject of the increasing state practice of detaining asylum seekers during the often lengthy periods in which their asylum claims are pending. The decisions concerning whom to detain tend to be made in at least two different ways, worldwide. Sometimes they reflect individualised determinations of the need to detain, for example to restrain a dangerous individual or a flight risk. At other times, fixed rules mandate detention for pre-formulated categories, such as all who arrive without proper documents, or all nationals of particular countries. My goals will be to outline the pros and cons of detaining asylum seekers generally, the international law limitations, and the comparative merits of mandatory categorical detention criteria versus individualised discretionary determinations.

**Teo You Yenn**  
**Post-Doctoral Fellow**  
**Changing Family in Asia Cluster**



I arrived at ARI in February 2006, about two months after completing my dissertation in Sociology at the University of California at Berkeley. In the year and a half that I have been a postdoctoral fellow with the "Changing Family in Asia" Research Cluster, I have had the opportunity to further develop my core interests in political economy, gender, and the sociology of culture, primarily through participation in various conference work and interactions with a highly varied group of colleagues. The diversity of opinion and approach to research at ARI — both substantive and methodological — have provided an exciting and challenging terrain to test out and develop ideas about my work.

My dissertation started with a somewhat ambitiously posed question: how do states rule and how do citizens allow or disallow themselves to be ruled? My dissertation, *No Economy, No Singapore: Weddings, Babies, and the*

*Development Project*, was an attempt at answering these questions in the context of Singapore. I found that the site of the family is one where the meaning and contours of state-society relations are forged. The dissertation demonstrates that pro-marriage and pro-natal policies may fail in their ostensible goals and yet still have important transformative consequences. Although the people I interviewed balked at the idea of having more babies because of enhanced Baby Bonuses, for example, they took very seriously the idea that families of the sort promoted by the state were crucial for national development, and that the state had to continue with its efforts, however imperfect. The process of talking about rules and regulations with people around them, as much as the practical negotiations of state rhetoric and policies, produced the sense that there were "Singaporean" ways of looking at the world, making decisions, and living lives. Significantly, people developed particular relationships with the state — relationships that led them to sophisticated and contradictory orientations: sometimes complaining, other times consenting, but always curiously sociological insofar as they framed their outlooks in the context of larger, national goals. The dissertation thus suggests that resolving questions of state rule and citizenship require serious consideration of meaning, subjectivity, and identity. These are generated in collective processes, and sometimes in unexpected realms.

As I work on turning the dissertation into a book, two main themes have come to the fore, generated by colleagues' comments and research projects, as well as a workshop I co-organised with Shen Hsiu-Hua, on behalf of the Family Cluster, titled "The Changing Asian Family as a Site of (State) Politics". First, I am increasingly convinced that the case of Singapore can be productively situated in the context of other Asian cases where there are similar dynamics: comparable demographic and politico-economic processes; comparable political valence around ideals about "family" and its significance in society; similar attempts by states to induce families to provide arguably public goods. Second, and related, one of the greatest challenges in studying families in Asia lies in figuring out how to take family as a site of analysis without reifying the very concept of family in ways that reproduce rather than critically engage with state forces. This challenge can be addressed through twin research strategies: by analysing how "the family" is produced through specific processes and the consequences inclusions/exclusions have on group identity and inequality; and also by expanding one's lens to take seriously that the state is an important but not sole actor in (re)producing certain ideals and beliefs about families.

It is with these points in mind that I intend to begin work on a new research project. I will investigate the role of counselors and other "social welfare" providers who purport to serve families — in schools, churches, neighbourhoods, the courts, among other sites — in the (re)production of certain forms of families. Through ethnographic and comparative (state versus non-state agencies) research, the project will focus particularly on how such groups and services represent agents of "welfare" — providing support toward sustaining families of certain forms — in a context where the relative roles and responsibilities of state and families toward individual citizens have become increasingly contentious. This project represents a further pursuit of my theoretical interests in understanding the role of "the social" — by which I mean the collective production of ideals, beliefs, norms, interests and practices — in understanding state-society relations. In particular, I want to investigate how and the extent to which state rule happens beyond boundaries recognisable as "the state."

## FORTHCOMING ARI EVENTS

### **LECTURE ON UNIVERSALISM AND DIVERSITY IN THE HISTORY OF ISLAMIC ART BY ASSOC PROF R. MICHAEL FEENER**

**04 December 2007, 7:00 – 8:30 PM  
Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place,  
Ngee Ann Auditorium, Basement 1**

Over the past 1,400 years Islam has produced a civilisation of tremendous richness and complexity. This has involved both the expansion of an integrated Muslim world on a hemispheric scale as well as the continual development of multiple local traditions of Islam from the very beginning of its history. One of the major dynamic tensions of this history has been that between unity and diversity, between the universalism of Islamic religious ideals and the vernacular expressions of various Muslim cultures. Drawing upon a rich selection of images from the Asian Civilisations Museum's collections and around the world, the speaker will offer an overview of some of the ways in which Muslims have explored complex visual expressions of universal Islamic visions of the divine within a variety of different cultural contexts. In doing so, the lecture will provide an introduction to the appreciation of Islamic art while also addressing some of the difficult issues of interpreting this heritage in the context of the modern world.

### **THE COLD WAR IN ASIA: THE CULTURAL DIMENSION**

**24 – 25 March 2008**

If much has been written over the last two decades on the cultural dimensions of the Cold War and how they impacted upon politics and diplomacy in the West, surprisingly little work has been done on the Asian side of the equation. Little attention has been paid to how Asian actors in the Cold War adhered to certain Cold War doctrines or ideologies, how they perceived each other, how their cultural perceptions predisposed them towards certain policies, or to the political engagement between states and social forces on the cultural front. Here "culture" involves not only actors' ideologies and worldviews but also their perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs. Similarly, cultural resources involve not only formal discourses but also popular symbols and images. The missing "cultural perspective" on the Cold War in Asia is crucial to a better understanding of international history as well as of the states that produced these concepts, discourses, symbols and images and the societies that accepted them. It would be a mistake to overlook the importance and durability of these perceptions and their manifestations, as many of them are still with us today.

This conference seeks to fill this "cultural perspective" gap in Asian Cold War studies and will focus on possible issues

which are further highlighted at <http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/calendarofevent.asp>

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### **ASEAN DISASTER MANAGEMENT: ENHANCING MULTILATERAL APPROACHES ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**25 – 26 January 2008  
Bangkok, Thailand**

Since its inception, ASEAN has played an important cooperative security role by monitoring regional security threats and providing established mechanisms for multilateral dialogue. In recent years, the organisation sought a deeper level of regional coordination, with member states implementing cooperation agreements across a growing spectrum of common interest areas, chiefly, in the fields of maritime security and counter-terrorism. Also notable, however, was ASEAN's July 2005 agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response. Signed in the wake of the December 2004 tsunami, this agreement called for the establishment of multilateral procedures enabling member states to respond collectively and expeditiously in the event of natural and manmade disasters.

A multilateral emergency response system could represent a significant step towards deepening institutional ties among ASEAN member states. It will also require the development of new institutional frameworks for enhancing communication and coordination among participants. Against that backdrop, the 2005 Agreement presents a valuable opportunity to examine how ASEAN member states can best collaborate to address the full spectrum of disaster management and mitigation strategies. In turn, those strategies illuminate a host of non-traditional security challenges relevant both to specific emergency situations and the general status of regional security in Southeast Asia. Together, these issues raise important questions regarding the nature of multilateralism in Southeast Asia and the prospects for further supranational institutional development.

With these questions in mind, The Scholar Ship Research Institute (TSSRI) and ARI are hosting an international workshop to examine regional approaches to disaster management. To be held in Bangkok in conjunction with The Scholar Ship's January 2008 port call, the workshop will draw on the expertise and experiences of medical experts, military officers and civilian disaster management officials from ASEAN member states. The workshop will also feature social scientists and environmental scientists, together with experts from the international humanitarian relief and reconstruction community.

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