

Monash Asia Institute Bulletin

October 2011

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<http://sasaa.org.au/?p=Journal>

Monash Asia Institute and Monash News

Item 1. **WELCOME** by the Monash Asia Institute's Acting Director

Greetings from Dr. Max Richter, Acting Director MAI. My research interests include street music, social identity and sustainable development issues in Indonesia and the wider world. In my role as Acting Director, I am helping to implement a number of initiatives that build on the MAI's existing strengths along with those in Arts and other Faculties at Monash University. Details about these initiatives will be announced shortly.

The former Director of the Monash Asia Institute, Professor Marika (Antonia) Vicziany continues with her research projects at Monash University in addition to chairing the Monash Asia Series Publications Committee of Monash Publishing and acting as President of the South Asian Studies Association of Australia.

Item 2. **ANNOUNCEMENT: East Timor Research Project**

Ms Ann Wigglesworth returned from fieldwork in East Timor to the Monash Asia Institute after carrying out research there on the inclusion of women in the democratic process. She recently received a research grant for this work from the International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance based in Sweden. She also had a research paper accepted recently for publication by the Journal of Contemporary Asia. She is also working on a book

based on her doctoral thesis which was entitled "Becoming citizens: Civil society activists and social change in Timor Leste".

Item 3. PhD CONFIRMATION SEMINAR TUESDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2011

The corporate food regime and food security in developing countries: A focus on marginal farmers in Bangladesh

Tuesday 11TH October 10.30 am to noon.

Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Caulfield Campus

Mr M Ziaul Haque, PhD Candidate, Monash Asia Institute

About the topic:

Today around a billion people are suffering from chronic hunger and around two billion people suffer from some form of malnutrition. Half of the hungry people belong to the approximately 2.1 billion marginal farmers in the world. Among the many reasons that have been identified as a reason for food insecurity is the present corporate food regime led by multinational corporations.. This corporate friendly food regime is criticized for encouraging large scale commercial farming and the financialisation of agriculture. Some authors even speak of a global de-peasantisation process. Marginal farmers are now struggling o pursue agriculture and access to food. This doctorate examines the impact of the corporate food regime on the food security of marginal farmers in Bangladesh.

About the speaker:

Mr M Ziaul Haque started his Ph.D. at Monash Asia Institute with an Australian Leadership Award in 2010. Before commencing his doctoral studies he Worked for the civil service in Bangladesh. He has an M.Phil. in International Relations from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and an M.A. in Public Administration from Carleton University, Canada. In 2006 he studied at the Department of Peace Studies at Bradford University, UK as a Chevening Fellow. He has worked as a researcher with the Ford Foundation, Transparency International and most recently as part of his Australian Leadership Award with the Department of Health in Victoria.

A light lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the seminar.

Item 4. CENTRE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR

Thursday 13TH October 1pm to 2pm

The Attributes of Allah: From Al-Azhar to Sunda

Venue: All seminars are held in the Elizabeth Burchill Room, located in the Performing Arts Precinct of the Clayton Campus. (Building 68, found at coordinates E4/E3 on the Clayton Campus map: <http://www.monash.edu.au/pubs/maps/3-Claytoncolour.pdf>)

SPEAKERS: Professor Peter Riddell and Dr Julian Millie

Professor Riddell will talk about the work of Al-Fadhali and Dr Millie will consider Sudanese

mediations of his work by the acclaimed Sudanese scholar and mystic Hasan Mustapa (d. 1930).

Please send inquiries to the convenor: Julian.Millie@monash.edu

Item 5. SPECIAL SEMINAR BY VISITING SCHOLAR

THE INDIA-CHINA SPAT IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA by Prof S D Muni

Friday 14th October 3.30pm to 5.30pm followed by refreshments

Venue: Monash Asia Institute, Room 5.95, 5th floor, Building H. Caulfield Campus.

About the topic:

In July 2011 China cautioned India when the Indian war ship INS Airavat visited the Vietnam coast; a further caution was issued in September 2011 against India's oil exploration. Many people in Asia have taken notice of these statements. India has been sending ships on official visits to Vietnam since the 1990s and oil drilling goes back to 1988/1992. Why has China taken note of these things now? The answer to this question may lie in China's own assessment of its internal security situation, the assertiveness of its hard-line nationalists and the growing military capabilities of China. How will the Indian and Chinese competition shape up in the South China Sea in future and what might be India's response? These and related issues will be discussed in the seminar.

About the speaker:

S.D. Muni is presently Visiting Research Professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, Singapore. He taught at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University for thirty four years. He also served as India's Ambassador to Laos and Special Envoy to Southeast Asian countries on the UN Security Council Reforms. In 2005 he received Sri Lanka's highest national honour for foreign nationals – the "Sri Lanka Ratna". Professor S D Muni is the author of several books and research papers, his most recent publications being *India and China: Next Decade*, *India's Foreign Policy: The Democracy Dimension*, and *Resurgent China: South Asian Perspectives*.

Item 6. SPECIAL SEMINAR BY VISITING SCHOLAR ON THE EUROPEAN CURRENCY CRISIS

Thursday 20th October 2011 10am to noon

Venue: Lecture theatre HB36, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus, 900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield East.

Please RSVP for catering purposes by 18 October to europescentre@monash.edu or phone 9903 4638

A seminar and panel discussion supported by the Italian Institute of Culture, Melbourne, EUNIC (Melbourne), the Monash Asia Institute and the Monash European and EU Centre

About the topic:

THE EURO CRISIS, CAUSES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS?

At its outset the European Common Currency was supposed to be an incentive to reach economic convergence inside the EU. Mediterranean countries were supposed to catch up with North European countries such as Germany and Holland. Today the economic indicators tell us that the gap between these nations has widened. The crisis of the sovereign debt tell us that the EU economy is out of sync and that the economic imbalances spring from the excessive borrowing of the PIIGS countries and from the indifference of the EU leadership vis-à-vis this behaviour. If, as many predict, the market will force one of the PIIGS into default, the contagion will spread to other EU members. Before such a catastrophe takes place the EU should consider the possibility of a temporary exit from the Euro and of a voluntary default for these countries. Such a strategy would soften the impact on the domestic and European economies. However, it is highly unlikely that this will happen because of the rigidity of the EU model. Unlike the Chinese model, this does not adapt to altered economic circumstances. The impact of a default of the PIIGS will be felt everywhere as the contagion will spread well beyond Europe.

NOTE: PIGGS= Portugal, Italy, Greece, and Spain, and sometimes Ireland

About the speakers:

Renowned Italian economist and author Loretta Napoleoni will speak on the above topic. This will be followed by comments from a panel including the former director of the Monash Asia Institute Professor Marika Vicziany and Dr Bruno Mascitelli, Associate Dean International in the Faculty of Business and Enterprise, Swinburne University of Technology. The MEEUC deputy director Natalie Doyle will chair the meeting.

Light refreshments will be served between the keynote speech and the panel discussion.

Item 7. CENTRE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR

October 20th 1pm to 2pm Ian Burnet on the SPICE ISLANDS

The usual venue and time on Thursdays – see item 4 above.

About the topic:

Cloves and nutmeg are indigenous to the Spice Islands of Eastern Indonesia, this book tells of the many uses of these exotic spices and the history of their trade over a period of more than 2000 years. It follows the Silk Road across Central Asia and the Spice Route over the Indian Ocean and describes how the spice trade came to be dominated by Middle Eastern and Venetian merchants. Backed by the Crowns of Portugal and Spain, explorers such as Columbus, Vasco da Gama and Magellan dreamed of capturing the this trade by sailing directly to the Spice Islands, driving the maritime exploration of the world known as 'The Age of Discovery'. Much of the story is told through the lives of these historical characters, as well as Sir Francis Drake, Jan Pieterzoon Coen, Pierre Poivre, and others who are lesser known but equally important.

The story also revolves around the intense rivalry between the Sultans of Ternate and Tidore and their relationship with the Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and English, who at different times occupied the Spice Islands.

The book follows the growth of the Dutch and English East India Companies which were founded to profit from the spice trade and their efforts to monopolize that trade. It finishes as the Dutch East India Company goes into bankruptcy and the once splendid Sultanates sink into obscurity.

About the speaker:

Ian Burnet graduated from Melbourne University in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology and Geophysics. He first went to Indonesia in 1968 and has spent more than twenty years living, working and travelling in the Indonesian archipelago in his professional career. Fascinated by the history of the archipelago, he thought the story of the tiny islands of Ternate and Tidore and their effect on world history had to be told. After years of research, his recently published book *Spice Islands* (Rosenberg Publishing 2011) has received critical acclaim and been described as - "a wonderful book- a triumph of passion and scholarship" (Townsville Bulletin) .

Item 8. WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies <http://sasaa.org.au/?p=Journal>

The journal *SOUTH ASIA* is produced by the South Asian Studies Association of Australia (SASA) with the support of the University of New South Wales and Monash University. It is a renowned, international journal which was rated as an A* journal by the ERA process. From 2012 onwards, there will be four issues a year including at least two thematic issues. Subscriptions to the South Asian Studies Association of Australia automatically entitle members to a free copy of the journal in addition to fee waivers for special conferences and other events. Persons interested in subscribing are encouraged to write to Vivien.Seyler@monash.edu Subscriptions can be paid via various means including credit cards. Full membership is \$95 p.a. and students, retired persons and persons from the subcontinent \$60 p.a.

The SASAA website contains a list of forthcoming events throughout Australia see: <http://sasaa.org.au/?p=Events>

ABOUT THE MAI BULLETIN

About the MAI Bulletin

The Monash Asia Institute Newsletter incorporates news items from the research centres of the Monash Asia Institute, partner organisations and other groups working to promote Asian Studies in Australia.

For further information about the Monash Asia Institute and this newsletter: <http://www.monash.edu.au/mai/>

To unsubscribe, please send an email to: Monash-Asia-Institute Enquiries, MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au