



## Monash Asia Institute Bulletin (7/2010)

7 September 2010

### Contents

1. A fundraiser for the Afghanistan National Institute of Music
2. CSEAS seminar on renegotiating feminist ideals in Indonesian contemporary art
3. Tucci documentary
4. MAI Confirmation Seminar
5. Seminar: Orientalism in Australia
6. MAI Confirmation Seminar
7. Post-graduate research workshops
8. America and Islam: Nine years on
9. CSEAS seminar on hip-hoppers, horse dancers and Islamic extravaganza
10. MAI 3-Minute thesis competition for PhD and Masters students
11. Australia-Korea Internship Program 2011
12. Japanese Language Speech Contest
13. Islamic Studies Postgraduate Conference
14. Public seminar by Ashis Nandy
15. International Conference
16. New section in Asian Politics & Policy journal
17. Website of the Month: Thai Buddhism

### Monash Asia Institute and Monash News

#### Item 1. [A fundraiser for the Afghanistan National Institute of Music](#)

Tuesday 7 September 2010, 6:30-8:30pm  
Kazari Collector and Cafe,  
450 Malvern Road, Prahran,  
VIC 3181 (Tel: 9510 2528)

#### **A fundraiser for the Afghanistan National Institute of Music**

Dr Ahmad Sarmast, Research Fellow, Monash Asia Institute

An evening of refreshments, music from Afghanistan and a short film about the Kabul Music School being developed by Dr Ahmad Sarmast (Research Fellow, Monash Asia Institute) will be held on this occasion at Kazari Collector and Café.

Attached is the brochure of this event with the program for this evening in Afghanistan.

For further information about the Afghanistan National Institute of Music see [www.afghanistannationalinstituteofmusic.org/](http://www.afghanistannationalinstituteofmusic.org/)

Cost: \$20 per person or \$15 student/pensioner

Enquiries and RSVP: [mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au) with 'Kabul Music School' in the subject heading

## **Item 2. CSEAS seminar on renegotiating feminist ideals in Indonesian contemporary art**

Thursday, 9 September 2010, 11:00-12:30pm  
Burchill Room, Building 68 (Performing Arts Centre), Monash University,  
Clayton Campus

### **Bodyscape: Renegotiating feminist ideals in Indonesian contemporary art**

Wulan Dirgantoro, University of Tasmania

The collapse of the authoritarian New Order regime in 1998 provided the impetus for a momentous shift in the ways of Indonesian women artists working with issues around the female body, opening the gates for a new kind of freedom of self-expression in various media in Indonesia. In visual arts and literature there is now a strong representation of subject matters which were previously taboo, including female sexuality and the deconstruction of feminine identity. This paper will present the representation of the female body by Indonesian women artists in the post-Soeharto era. It will discuss works by well-known artists such as Arahmaiani, Titarubi and IGAK Murniasih, as well as other significant works/exhibitions which are strongly influenced by gender issues, sexual politics, memory and intimacy. Given that sexuality and the construction of feminine identity were tightly regimented by the previous regime, this presentation will look at how contemporary Indonesian women artists are representing the newly found, albeit still fragile freedom, through their works. This presentation will also examine the strategies and negotiations that they have to apply in addressing these issues.

**Wulan Dirgantoro** is an Indonesian curator and writer based in Melbourne, Australia. In 2007 she curated *Intimate Distance: Tracing Feminism in Indonesian contemporary art* at the National Gallery of Indonesia (Jakarta) in conjunction with the launch of *Indonesian Women Artists: The Curtain Opens*, the first book dedicated to tracing the roles and achievements of women artists in Indonesia from the 1950s to the present. She is currently writing her PhD dissertation at the School of Asian Languages and Studies, University of Tasmania. Her research interests are contemporary art, popular culture, cross-cultural collaborations, museum studies and feminisms. She is a regular contributor to various art publications in Australia and Asia.

Enquiries: [Sven.Schottmann@monash.edu](mailto:Sven.Schottmann@monash.edu)

### Item 3. Tucci documentary

Thursday 9 September 2010, 7:00pm  
Italian Institute of Culture, 233 Domain Road, South Yarra, Melbourne

IN WESTERN TIBET (1933) - Film screening and presentation

On the occasion of the conference dedicated to "Giuseppe Tucci - Explorer and Extraordinary Scholar", which begins on the 1st of October at Monash University (Caulfield Campus), the Italian Institute of Culture is pleased to host the screening of the documentary, "The Scientific Mission of Giuseppe Tucci in Western Tibet in 1933". The presentation portrays Tucci's studies and experiences during one of his many explorations of Tibet.

Speakers: Dr Andrea Di Castro and Dr David Templeman (Monash Asia Institute)

Language: English

Admission: Free

Bookings: essential by phone (03) 8820 2054 or

[bookings.iicmelbourne@esteri.it](mailto:bookings.iicmelbourne@esteri.it)

More information about this documentary:

[http://www.iicmelbourne.esteri.it/IIC\\_Melbourne/webform/SchedaEvento.aspx?id=271&citta=Melbourne](http://www.iicmelbourne.esteri.it/IIC_Melbourne/webform/SchedaEvento.aspx?id=271&citta=Melbourne)

Organised by the Italian Institute of Culture, Melbourne, and Monash University, in collaboration with IsIAO.

### Item 4. MAI Confirmation Seminar

Friday 10 September 2010, 10:00am  
Room H595, Level 5, Building H, Monash University, Caulfield Campus

Dr Sotheara Chhim, MD, PhD Candidate, MAI, Monash University

**Ethno-cultural Response of Trauma in Cambodia: Baksbat (Broken Courage), a Cambodian Version of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).**

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which was developed in the United States and adopted widely in 'Western' countries, may not be fully capturing trauma symptoms experienced and expressed by people of Southeast Asia or other non-Western regions of the globe. This study was designed to gather culturally-reliable data on a Cambodian response-set called 'baksbat' literally meaning 'broken courage', as a means toward inventory development. The study was designed in three phases: (1) use of ethnographic methods to

explore the concept of baksbat from the perspective of experts within the country; (2) development of ethnographically derived scales of baksbat and, (3) validation of this baksbat scale by comparison with the international standardized scale, PTSD Checklist (PCL-C). Following, a 32-item scale of baksbat was developed. Appreciably, the baksbat scale is not equivalent to PTSD. In fact its items represent a nuance of severe trauma response symptoms experienced by Cambodian survivors of the Khmer Rouge; PTSD scales were not designed to capture such long-term complexities. The study of baksbat provides a blueprint for future studies on ethno-cultural aspects of mental health and is a very important contribution to the development of mental health services inside and outside Cambodia.

### **Item 5. Seminar: Orientalism in Australia**

Friday 10 September 2010, 16:00-17:00pm  
Japanese Studies Centre (Bldg. 54), Monash University, Clayton Campus

#### **Brown Rabbits and Yellow Butterflies: “Yellow Peril” in Australia**

Kazue Nakamura, Professor (Comparative Literature and Culture), Meiji University, Tokyo, Japan

Discourse of “Yellow Peril” includes the myth of promiscuity, which makes Asians both appalling and attractive. On the appalling side Asians are “brown rabbits” invading white Australia with their fertility and the devastating power of their masses. On the attractive side Asians are mostly effeminate or “en-butterflied.” The Analysis of such stereotyped images of Asians is a popular theme for Australian cultural history. Interestingly, however, Japanese studies on “Yellow Peril” often underestimate, or even disregard, the role of Australia in this much discussed problematic ideology. This seminar presentation was first conceived as a response to *Anxious Nation: Australia and the Rise of Asia 1850-1939* by Prof. David Walker (Deakin University), and tries to understand the tenacious fantasy called “Asians” from a Japanese viewpoint. Racial and sexual imageries used to support Orientalism in Australia and some other countries are discussed, from Charles H. Pearson’s famous *National Life and Character* (1893), Milca Eliade’s *Maitreyi* (1933) to Alison Tilson’s recent film *Japanese Story* (2003).

**Kazue Nakamura** specializes in the study of comparative literature and culture, with special interest in ethnic and sexual minorities. She also is the author of the collection of poetry *Lazrus the Lizard* as well as two collections of columns and essays, writer of short stories, translator of Caribbean, Black British and other transcultural literatures in English. She is currently in Melbourne as a visiting researcher to the Japanese Studies Centre of Monash University.

The presentation will be conducted in English.

Enquiries: [kazue.nakamura@monash.edu](mailto:kazue.nakamura@monash.edu)

## **Item 6. MAI Confirmation Seminar**

Wednesday 15 September 2010, 10:00 am  
Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Monash University, Caulfield Campus

Mr Shahril Eashak Ismail, PhD Candidate, MAI, Monash University

### **Tony Fernandes' entrepreneurial insights – the rise of AirAsia**

AirAsia has emerged in the past decade as a popular low-cost Malaysian airline and performed very well in the current tough economic atmosphere. Its CEO, Tony Fernandes, is often regarded by Malaysians as one of their entrepreneurial success stories. This paper discusses how and why Tony Fernandes, thrived in an industry where the government gave top priority to its National Carrier, Malaysia Airlines. Can the Fernandes' phenomenon be explained by the Developmental State concept that the Malaysian government implemented, even though Fernandes claim he did not get support from the government. This Developmental State strategy included government support for an airline industry – precisely the area into which Tony Fernandes focused his entrepreneurial skills. Is Tony Fernandes really being entrepreneurial or was his success down to indirect government support?

**Shahril Eashak Ismail** is originally from Malaysia. He studied at Mercer University Atlanta, in Georgia, United States, with a focus in Technology Management. He then lectures for almost seven years at MARA University of Technology in Malaysia, specialising in International Business and Innovation management. In 2008, he was awarded for his involvement in creating educational software – International Business - for MARA University's e-learning programme. He is currently undertaking a PhD at the Monash Asia Institute, Monash University on issue of Entrepreneur and government involvement in the growth Low-Cost Carrier (LCC) in Malaysia.

## **Item 7. Post-graduate research workshops**

Tuesday, 1:00-2:00pm, S529, Menzies Bld, Clayton  
Thursday, 1:00-2:00pm, S529, Menzies Bld, Clayton  
Saturday Intensive, 10-3pm, 25/9/10, Caulfield (venue tbc)

The Arts Academic Language & Learning Unit will repeat the series of workshops: "Research - from theory to practice" in weeks 8-11. The workshops focus on the following aspects of the research process:

Week 8 (9/9/10): Research questions & rationales  
Week 9: (16/9/10): The (critical) literature review & conceptual frameworks  
Week 10: (23/9/10): Methodologies and methods  
Week 11: (7/10/10): Advanced style in academic writing

The program is free however places for each session are limited to 20 people. Please register by email and indicate your day preference (Tuesday or Thursday or the Saturday intensive): [Matthew.Piscioneri@monash.edu](mailto:Matthew.Piscioneri@monash.edu)

## **Item 8. America and Islam: Nine years on**

Wednesday 15 September 2010, 7:00 pm  
Level 8, H Building, Monash University, Caulfield campus

### **9/11 America and Islam Nine Years On**

#### **A conversation with Jack Miles, Waleed Aly and Geoffrey Garrett**

*A free public seminar sponsored by the  
United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney  
Monash Global Terrorism Research Centre  
Monash Centre for Islam and the Modern World  
The Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation (ACJC)  
The Monash European and EU Centre  
Monash Asia Institute*

**Professor Jack Miles** is Pulitzer Prize winning author of *GOD: A Biography* and Professor at the University of California, Irvine. Distinguished Professor of English and Religious Studies at the University of California, Irvine, and Fellow for Religious Affairs with the Pacific Council on International Policy, Jack Miles is a writer whose work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Boston Globe*, and many other publications. His book *GOD: A Biography* won a Pulitzer Prize in 1996 and has been translated into sixteen languages, including Hebrew and Chinese. A sequel to that book entitled *CHRIST: A Crisis in the Life of God* - published simultaneously in 2001 in the United States, Britain, Germany, and France - was reviewed on the front page of the *New York Times Book Review* and led to Miles being named a MacArthur Fellow in 2002.

**Waleed Aly** is an Australian academic, lawyer and Muslim community leader. A frequent and authoritative commentator in the media on Australian Muslim affairs he is also the first Australian Muslim to work regularly as a radio talk show host (on ABC radio in Melbourne). He is a regular commentator on ABC2 TV's *New Breakfast* program and wrote for and hosted SBS TV's *Salam Cafe*. He is the author of the influential *People Like Us: How Arrogance is Dividing Islam and the West* (Picador, 2007). He is a lecturer at the Global Terrorism Research Centre at Monash University, Melbourne where he is undertaking his PhD on the causal dynamics of jihadi Islamist terrorism.

**Professor Geoffrey Garrett** is founding CEO of the United States Studies Centre and Professor of Political Science at the University of Sydney. He is a frequent commentator on all aspects of US politics, economics and foreign policy in Australian media, including The Australian, Australian Financial Review, Sydney Morning Herald, Sky TV and ABC radio and television programs. Among the most influential political scientists of his generation, Garrett is author of *Partisan Politics in the Global Economy*, editor of *The Global Diffusion of Markets and Democracy*. Garrett has held academic appointments at Oxford, Stanford and Yale universities and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations.

**Enquiries and RSVP:** [mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au) with 'America and Islam' in the subject heading.

### **Item 9. CSEAS seminar on hip-hoppers, horse dancers and Islamic extravaganza**

Monash Centre of Southeast Asian Studies presents  
Thursday 16 September 2010, 11:00-12:30pm  
Burchill Room, Building 68 (Performing Arts Centre), Monash University,  
Clayton Campus

#### **Hip-hoppers, horse dancers and Islamic extravaganza – contemporary Indonesian identities on stage**

Prof Barbara Hatley, University of Tasmania/Monash University

In this seminar I will report on my own research and on a workshop I co-ordinated in Yogyakarta recently entitled *Cultural Performance in Post-New Order Indonesia: New Structures, Scenes, Meanings*. Given the longstanding roles of performances in Indonesian societies in displaying wealth and power, reinforcing values, celebrating community events, and more recently conveying political critique, how do contemporary performances reflect on life after Suharto? How do examples from other regions and genres compare with the lively scene I have observed in central Java – constant festivals, parades and public spectacles, performers eclectically blending local forms with international styles in shows staged in city neighbourhoods and publicised on facebook, communities performing their own histories? Such activities, highlighting the 'local' and celebrating 'community', clearly connect with contemporary political conditions, with the emphasis on local identity and community participation promoted by regional autonomy and democratisation. But how this process works and relates to broader transnational cultural flows and conditions remains to be examined.

**Barbara Hatley** is an Emeritus Professor in the School of Asian Languages and Studies at the University of Tasmania and an honorary appointee in the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University. The workshop *Cultural Performance in Post-New Order Indonesia* was hosted by

Sanata Dharma University in Yogyakarta and sponsored jointly by the Australian-Netherlands Research Collaboration, the Australia-Indonesia Institute and the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Enquiries: [Sven.Schottmann@monash.edu](mailto:Sven.Schottmann@monash.edu)

### **Item 10. MAI 3-Minute thesis competition for PhD and Masters students**

Friday 24 September 2010, 3:00-3:30pm  
Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Monash University, Caulfield Campus

#### **3-Minute thesis competition for PhD and Masters students**

The competition will be held on Friday every fortnight, starting on Friday 10 September 2010. The winner of each competition will receive a \$50 book voucher as the reward.

To enter the competition, please send an email to Tikky expressing your interest in this competition. Every fortnight, three contestants (at the same stage of research programme) will be randomly selected.

Information on this 3-Minute Thesis Competition can be found at <http://www.monash.edu.au/researchmatters/3-minute-thesis/>

### **News from other institutions**

#### **Item 11. Australia-Korea Internship Program 2011**

The University of Sydney is currently inviting postgraduate and senior undergraduate students from universities across Australia to apply for the Australia-Korea Internship Program (AKIP) 2011.

Between January and February each year since 2005, eight outstanding students are selected to undertake internships within Korean corporations, which in the past have included Posco, Samsung and Hyundai. Not only will students have the opportunity to learn and experience common business practices in the Asia-Pacific region, they will also have the unique and valuable opportunity to experience authentic Korean culture. Through homestay accommodation and weekly Korean language classes, interns will experience traditional family life, observe everyday customs and learn the basics of a new language. The internship is unpaid however interns receive an allowance for general living and accommodation expenses. Students will also enhance their employment prospects and contribute to improved Australia-Korea relations and understanding.

AKIP 2011 is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia-Korea Foundation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The internship program is managed by the University of Sydney in collaboration with the Korea-Australia Foundation in Seoul.

Applicants must be undertaking a degree in one of the fields of specialisation: *economics, commerce, finance, accounting, business, marketing, information and communications technology, international trade, or other similar fields*. Successful applicants will be responsible for organising the correct visa, the cost of their return airfares to Seoul and personal travel insurance.

We would like to encourage students from your University to apply for this unique internship program. Attached is a brochure with information about the AKIP. Please feel free to forward this email to your students, any assistance you can provide in promoting the program would be very much appreciated.

For further information about the Australia-Korea Internship Program visit [www.sydney.edu.au/akip](http://www.sydney.edu.au/akip) or contact the project coordinator, Angela Zaballa on [angela.zaballa@sydney.edu.au](mailto:angela.zaballa@sydney.edu.au) or 02 9351 8541.

Applications close: Friday 3 September 2010

## **Item 12. Japanese Language Speech Contest**

Sunday 5 September 2010  
Carrillo Gantner Theatre, Sidney Myer Asia Centre  
Corner of Monash Rd & Swanston St

### **41st Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest - Victorian State Final 2010**

Organised by The Japanese Language Speech Contest Victoria, The Consulate-General of Japan, Melbourne and the Japan Foundation, Sydney, this will be the 41st year that the Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest has been held.

The aim of the contest is to encourage learners of Japanese who do not speak Japanese as their first language, as well as background speakers whose parent/s speak Japanese as their first language, to practise and consolidate their language skills in a challenging context.

Spectators and audience welcome, free of charge.

Competition website:  
<http://www.melbourne.au.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/whatson.html#speech2010>

Enquiries: Kumiko Toyama by [k.toyama@nexnet.net.au](mailto:k.toyama@nexnet.net.au) or 9667-7824

### **Item 13. Islamic Studies Postgraduate Conference**

15-17 November 2010  
Melbourne Law School,  
The University of Melbourne  
Victoria 3010, Australia

The Centre for Islamic Law and Society (CILS) was established to facilitate and support Islam-related research on legal issues, and to improve Australian understandings of Islam and law throughout the wider community.

The CILS will host its 6th annual Islamic Studies Postgraduate Conference on 15-17 November, 2010. The conference will once again be co-hosted by the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies (NCEIS) and aims to bring together postgraduate students from around Australia who are researching topics relating to Islam, in the broadest sense.

Postgraduate students from around Australia are invited to present papers on a topic specifically related to their research. It will provide students with a supportive, collegial atmosphere and the opportunity to meet students with similar interests. Students will benefit from feedback received from their peers and selected academic experts in the field. Special sessions on thesis writing and small-group feedback on student research will be included in the program.

Details of this conference, including conference information, call for papers, conference flyer and a registration form can be found on the conference website: <http://www.cils.law.unimelb.edu.au/index.cfm?objectid=4C88E8E7-5056-B405-51A23966695B26BC#2010%20Additional%20Information>

To present a paper, please submit the 'Call for Papers' form to [cils-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:cils-info@unimelb.edu.au) by Friday 20 August, 2010.

Enquiries: [shawt@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:shawt@unimelb.edu.au)

### **Item 14. Public seminar by Ashis Nandy**

Friday 10 September 2010, 7:30pm  
Village Roadshow Theatre  
State Library of Victoria  
328 Swanston St. Melbourne (entrance from LaTrobe Street)

**The Untamed Language of Dissent: political activism and the dialogue between states**

Ashis Nandy

The Institute of Postcolonial Studies is an independent organisation located in Melbourne, Australia. It is committed to advancing the recognition of cultural difference, and encouraging mutual engagement and reconciliation.

Ashis Nandy is an Indian political psychologist, a social theorist, and a contemporary cultural and political critic. Ashis is one of the world's leading public intellectuals often called the 'conscience of India'.

For further information see <http://ipcs.org.au/>

Cost: \$15 per person, \$10 student/pensioner

Light refreshments will be served at 7:00pm

### **Item 15. International Conference**

13-14 September 2010  
British Library Conference Centre,  
St Pancras, London

#### **Bharat Britain: South Asians Making Britain, 1870-1950**

This conference will explore the manifold ways in which the presence of South Asians in Britain during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries impacted on Britain and influenced the shaping of the nation. It will map out the various networks and affiliations South Asians and Britons formed across boundaries of 'race', 'nation' and 'class'. These can be traced in different areas of cultural and political life, from the elitist literary and artistic circles of Bloomsbury where friendships were forged between poets and painters; to the anticolonial organisations which brought South Asian and British activists together in the lead up to Independence; to the battlefields of the two world wars where Indian sepoys and volunteers fought alongside Britain's youth.

Yet these interactions were also, at times, marked by hierarchies and dissent, with South Asians facing barriers in this chapter of their journey to negotiate the peripheries of Britain as well as its 'centre'. Whether through riot, strike or petition, they struggled for their rights as imperial citizens, shifting ideas of 'Britishness' in the process.

Held in partnership with the British Library, the conference will address the ways in which South Asians – whether writers, politicians, students or lascars – positioned themselves in Britain during this period, and, in turn, how they were depicted by the British public and in British culture. Further, it will examine the significance of their activities and their influence on the cultural-political make-up of Britain, the ways in which their interventions challenged the national imaginary, and how debates about citizenship and Britishness during the period continue to resonate with contemporary preoccupations regarding Britain's multi-ethnic identity.

The conference will host the *Making Britain* exhibition which will then tour across the UK. It will also launch a unique interactive database comprising several hundred entries on South Asians in Britain.

Conference website:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/south-asians-making-britain/conference.htm>

## **Item 16. New section in Asian Politics & Policy journal**

### **Praxis - Public policy in Asia**

The journal Asian Politics and Policy will have a new section beginning in 2011 that focuses on the practice of public policy in Asia. The new section, entitled 'Praxis' will address the balance between the more conceptual aspect and the practical dimensions of politics and policy issues in the Asia region (the former perhaps more adequately covered by our regular articles); the desire to rope in more non-academics and relevant ideas and experiences from Asia's growing number of political activists and policy think tanks; our hope of increasing coverage of 'Asian perspectives'.

The editorial panel would like to invite contributions to 'Praxis', as well as formal scholarly articles to 'Asian Politics and Policy'.

### **Praxis: Objectives and Scope**

This section is best typified as a venue for dissemination of high-level policy advocacy, advances in policy-making, and social learning that embraces the essentials of action, adaptive organizing, and policy as experiment

The proposed section seeks to:

- Provide policy perspectives on, among others, environmental issues, society and culture, international political economy, regulatory policy and Asian integration processes that cut across disciplines.
- Promote critical debate on, and analysis of "evidence-based policy-making" in the Asian region.
- Publish practical, innovative policy solutions based on levelheaded assessments of the challenges and opportunities facing Asian countries  
Provide up-dated information about breaking policy developments in the Asian region

Contributions should have the following key elements:

- Empirical assessment of policy problems and arguments for intervention
- Analysis of issues in the making and implementation of policies
- Appraisal of effectiveness of methods of selecting and designing, as well as of monitoring and evaluating, existing policies
- Review of specific government policy initiatives and practice; connecting policy initiatives to check if synergies are exploited
- Assessment of impact of policy

Suggested major themes:

- Policy development: poverty reduction; spatial development and urbanization; rural development, land use and food security; gender; health and education
- Governance and institutions: political economy of agencies and institutions; democratic practice and human rights; electoral and political party systems; state-market-civil society relations; role of military forces; access to justice; regional integration and regional/global cooperation; public sector management; intra-state and inter-state conflict, terrorism and peacemaking
- Policy management: assessing impact and effectiveness of development programs; technical assistance and aid management; management of CSOs, disaster relief and emergencies; energy, environment and climate change.

### **Mechanics:**

(1) For a Praxis contribution to be properly considered, it must contain the following information (to be provided by the contributor or by the sponsoring editor):

- Proposed title
- Abstract or short but sufficiently detailed description of the intended policy theme, issue or solution to be discussed
- Clear indication of the general utility of the policy theme, issue or solution

(2) The Praxis contributor/s should already have established credibility in the area to be covered. A considerable track record would be an attractive (but not a compulsory) requirement.

(3) While not subject to a strict review process (i.e. one requiring revision based on reviewer comments), contributions will be screened by a panel of 3 editors who are senior scholars in their respective fields. An endorsement by at least two of the panel members, plus recommendation of the Praxis section editor and approval of the Editor-in-chief, will lead to acceptance of the material for publication. This process and the general criteria for inclusion will be prominently announced in the journal for transparency purposes.

(4) However, the Praxis panel has the right to invite contributions from high-level, prestigious contributors without need for an ensuing panel review. In exceptional cases (e.g. strong appeals by authors for reconsideration, Praxis panel impasse or split Praxis panel decisions), and in politically-sensitive instances, the editor-in-chief reserves the right to make the final decision and assume full accountability for it.

(5) The contribution may be in the form of an interview, an original essay, a transcript/excerpt of a dialogue, or a summary of a panel discussion; with audio or video files available online at the APP website: <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=1943-0779&site=1>

Professor Damien Kingsbury

Personal Chair  
School of International and Political Studies  
Deakin University, Melbourne  
CRICOS Provider Code 00113B +61(0)439638834

### **Item 17. Thai Buddhism**

This page is a great introduction to a strand of Buddhism that is integral to an understanding of modern Thailand. It is fascinating reading, although more suitable for those with little prior knowledge of the area.

More information at: <http://www.thaibuddhism.net/>

#### **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](mailto:MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au)