Monash Asia Institute Bulletin
June 2012

2012: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Indonesian and Malay Studies at Monash

Contents

1. From the MAI Director’s Desk
2. Monash Asia Seminars – MAI Public Seminar
   ‘Iran Today: Why Popular Western Stereotypes are Misleading and Dangerous’
3. Monash Asia Seminars – MAI Public Seminar
   ‘Music and Colonialism in the Eastern Indian Ocean’
4. World Premiere Screening of ‘Dr. Sarmast’s Music School’ Film at the 2012 Sydney Film Festival
5. Monash Asia Seminars – CSEAS/CIMOW Special Seminar
   ‘Muslim Merit-Making in Thailand’s Far-South’
7. The Herb Feith Foundation Seminar Series 2012
   Seminar 2: Film Screening: John Darling’s ‘Below the Wind’ with Introductory Talk by Sara Darling
8. Monash Asia Seminars – MAI Public Seminar
   ‘Is Cross National Exchange of Social Policy Knowledge Feasible?’
9. New Book on Tibet by MAI Researcher
   ‘Historical Dictionary of Tibet’
10. New Book on Cambodia with Chapters by MAI Researcher
    ‘Cambodia: Progress and Challenges since 1991’
11. ARC Linkage Project on Radicalisation 2012 Annual Conference
    ‘Countering Terrorism in Australia and Indonesia 10 Years after Bali’
12. Exhibition ‘Wood Metal and Clay @ Monash Gallery of Art’
13. Concert ‘The New Ancient Songs’ featuring the music of the Persian Composer Reza Vali
14. MAI PhD Candidates Presenting at a Public Forum (recent event)
    ‘The Rising Tides of Climate Change - The Challenge to Bangladesh’
15. MAI Researcher Speaking at 2011 Tiffin Talks (past event)
    ‘Terrorism in Bombay (Mumbai) and India’s Historical Amnesia’
16. The Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM) in Kabul Received Funding from British Council (past event)
17. New Book from Monash Asia Series
    ‘Old Myths and New Approaches: Interpreting Ancient Religious Sites in Southeast Asia’
**Item 1. From the MAI Director's Desk**

For the June 2012 MAI Bulletin we include book publications and film screenings, an exhibition, concert, upcoming conference and a recent radio broadcast. We present another diverse range of seminar speakers and themes, and three Southeast Asia events all on 20 June. Additionally, MAI website has just moved to the new Arts Monash web template. We are in the final stages of this transition, and look forward to exploring and utilising new ICT capabilities to further promote and share Asia-related research at Monash University.

The next MAI Bulletin is scheduled for Monday 2nd July 2012. If you have news on any events or other announcements that you would like us to include, please forward this to MAI-Enquiries@monash.edu, by Wednesday 27th June 2012.

From Dr Max Richter and the MAI team

**Item 2. Monash Asia Seminars – MAI Public Seminar**

‘Iran Today: Why Popular Western Stereotypes are Misleading and Dangerous’

**Prof Marika Vicziany, Monash Asia Institute**

**Thursday 7th June 2012, 12noon – 1pm**
**Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus**

*Light lunch will be provided. RSVP is not required.*

On my first day in Iran in early April this year, I was shocked to find myself in a very modern country – impressive infrastructure, efficient services, and women throughout the work force. Iran is very much a ‘first world country’ and bears no comparison with the developing world of Asia, especially India. In this talk I will reflect on my experiences in Iran, the new tolerance of the Iranian government for diversity (in contrast to the first decade after the revolution of 1979) and why I think that US foreign policy on Iran needs to be questioned, especially by US allies such as Australia.

**Marika Vicziany** (PhD SOAS, Uni. London) is Professor of Asian Political Economy at Monash University. From 2001 – 2011 she was the Director of the Monash Asia Institute. She has written over 100 refereed journal articles and chapters plus some 15 books. Her publications reflect her main research interest in how mass poverty and discrimination intersect with long term development and domestic and international security. She is committed to multidisciplinary research methods and has spent some 37 years working on South Asia, ten years on western China and more recently on India-Pakistan-China-Iran relations.
Item 3. Monash Asia Seminars – MAI Public Seminar
‘Music and Colonialism in the Eastern Indian Ocean’

Prof Margaret Kartomi & Dr Katherine Butler Schofield
(with Dr Max Richter as Discussant)

Friday 8th June 2012, 4.00pm – 6.00pm
Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

Prof Margaret Kartomi, School of Music – Conservatorium
‘Instances of Colonial-Era European Contact in Sumatra's Traditional Music & Dance, with Examples from Lampung, South Sumatra, Bangka-Belitung, Bengkulu, West Sumatra, Kepulauan Riau, North Sumatra and Aceh Provinces’

I will discuss some surviving examples, including: (i) the viola that was transplanted from Portugal and spread throughout the Malay world and all provinces of Sumatra in the 17th century, (ii) kapri biola ensemble music accompanying Sikambang songs on North Sumatra's west coast, (iii) syncretic Malay-Portuguese joget dancing with hopping movements and biola accompaniment in Kepulauan Riau, Bangka, and east-coast Sumatra, (iv) the rabab that accompanies storytelling on West Sumatra's south coast, (v) the biola Aceh that accompanies male-female response singing in eastern Aceh, (vi) the German harmonium/melodeon that accompanies traditional singing in the South Sumatran highlands, (vii) the English maypole dance from the Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles period in Bengkulu (1818-24), and (vii) indirect results of European activity, such as Raffles' bringing Sepoys from India to Bengkulu.

Katherine Butler Schofield, King's College London
‘Music in Colonial Transition: Indian Perspectives on the "Hindustani Airs" Episode’

The late eighteenth-century composition of “Hindustani airs” – North Indian songs transcribed by Europeans from live performances, set to keyboard accompaniments, and performed in European soirees – constitutes a remarkable episode in the history of colonial musical encounters. The European sources for this episode have, of course, been comprehensively examined by Gerry Farrell, Ian Woodfield, and Nicholas Cook. But the other perspective on this encounter, that of the North Indian singers whose repertoire was transformed into “Hindustani airs”, has not before been studied to any great extent. Fortuitously, there are several contemporaneous sources in Persian and Urdu on which to draw that reflect North Indian views of European transcription enterprises and other involvements in local music making, including biographies, music treatises, poetry, and songs. These suggest that, rather than the "Hindustani airs" episode being solely an act of appropriation by politically dominant outsiders that generated no reciprocity in the local music culture, North Indian musicians in fact used the encounter with European music making to transform their own musical discourse and practice. In this paper I aim to present some new ways of considering the transition between North Indian and British regimes of musical knowledge that take into account hybridity, multiplicity, affinity, and local agency in the colonial encounter.
Katherine Butler Schofield (née Brown) is Lecturer in Music at King's College London, and Principal Investigator of the European Research Council project "Musical Transitions to European Colonialism in the Eastern Indian Ocean". She is a cultural historian and ethnomusicologist whose work focuses on South Asia, and her interests lie in Indian art and religious music, the history of Mughal India and the Indian Ocean (c.1600-1900), Islam, and empire. Having trained initially as a viola player at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, she embarked on postgraduate studies in North Indian music at SOAS, London, followed by a research fellowship at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and a lectureship at the University of Leeds.

Katherine has recently been awarded EUR 1.18M by the European Research Council to lead an exciting new research project, “Musical Transitions to European Colonialism in the Eastern Indian Ocean” (2011-14), which aims to produce a history of transitions from pre-colonial to colonial musical fields in India and the Malay peninsula c.1750-1900. She is also preparing a monograph on the cultural history of music, musicians and their patrons in Mughal North India, entitled ‘The Place of Pleasure: Hindustani Music in Mughal society, 1593-1707’.

Item 4. World Premiere Screening of ‘Dr. Sarmast's Music School’ Film at the 2012 Sydney Film Festival

Directed by Polly Watkins; Produced by Beth Frey; Runtime 97 mins

Event Cinemas George Street 9, Sydney
Friday 8th June 2012, 6.00pm

‘Musicologist Dr Ahmad Sarmast* returns to Kabul after 15 years in exile to reopen an old music school, closed down by Muslim extremists in 1992. His dream is to revitalise Afghanistan’s musical traditions - devastated by years of war and Taliban rule - and create the country's first national institute of music. He also hopes to offer Kabul's street kids and orphans the chance to study, in the belief that music might heal their trauma and offer them a better future.’ – from 2012 Sydney Film Festival website

Trailer of the film can be view at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyrnAi55I0s

* Dr Ahmad Sarmast is an MAI Research Fellow. For more information on the Afghanistan National Institute of Music, please visit http://afghanistannationalinstituteofmusic.org/

Item 5. Monash Asia Seminars – CSEAS/CIMOW Special Seminar
‘Muslim Merit-Making in Thailand’s Far-South’

Dr Christopher M Joll, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand & Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Wednesday 20th June 2012, 2.00pm – 3.00pm
Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus
The adoption by Thai-speaking Muslims of religious rhetoric associated with Theravada Buddhism has aroused the interest of a number of anthropologists in Thailand. In this paper, I consider the merits of three explanations of references by Thai-speaking Muslims of tham bun (Th. merit-making). I discuss the syncretic explanations before considering the proposal that tham bun is one element of a cosmology shared by Buddhists and Muslims in Thailand. Analysis of bilingual data among urban Malays in Thailand’s Far-south reveals that tham bun refers to more than the generation of merit. As such, interest about what Thai-speaking Muslims mean by tham bun, is not the same as enquires about how Muslims make merit. This paper argues that the adoption of this Thai religious idiom represents a search for equivalence by bilingual Malays. Malays in Thailand are not alone in their search for equivalent terms in languages associated with other faith traditions, necessitated by the demise of the language through which Islamic discourse has been conducted. In addition to my rejection of syncretic conclusions being based on merit-making rhetoric being replete with Arabic terms of Islamic ideation, the importance of the economy of merit throughout Muslim Southeast Asia—and indeed the wider Muslim World—questions the applicability of the shared cosmology thesis north of Thailand’s Malay-dominated southern provinces.

Christopher M Joll is a New Zealand anthropologist who has lived and worked in Thailand’s Malay-dominated southern provinces for ten years. Since completing his doctorate from the National University of Malaysia (UKM) in 2009, he has had visiting research fellowships at the Muslim Studies Centre, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, and the Centre for the Study of Islam and Muslim Culture, Victoria University of Wellington. His most recent publication is Muslim Merit-making in Thailand’s Far-south demonstrates his interests in linguistic and religious anthropology, Islamic movements, and Patani/Pattani historiography. His next project will deal with the Ahmadiyyah-Qadariyyah and Ahmadiyyah-Shadhliyya sufi orders in central and south Thailand, the first part of a wider project concerned with Islamic movements in Thailand marginal to the mainstream.

Item 6. Special Seminar/Performance - In Celebration of 50 Years of Indonesian and Malay Studies at Monash University

‘Sundanese Poetry in Translation and Performance: The Work of Kang Godi’

Godi Suwarna & Dr Safrina Soemadipradja

Wednesday 20th June 2012, 4.00pm – 6.00pm
Room HB.32 (basement), Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

Sundanese is Indonesia’s second largest regional language with over 27 million speakers and a distinct literary tradition of its own. In spite of this, its literary works are almost unknown outside of Indonesia and are rarely translated. This seminar will be a unique presentation of one of the most well-known contemporary Sundanese poets, Godi Suwarna, performed by the poet himself with academic Dr Safrina Soemadipradja Noorman as our guide. Dr Safrina will also present her comments regarding the specific nature of Sundanese language as literature and approaches to its translation.
Godi Suwarna is an avant-garde Sundanese literary giant. He has received many awards, including the prestigious Rancage Prize, awarded three times for his writing in three different genres: poetry, novel and the short story. Having been raised in a traditional manner in a literature-rich environment, his refined use of Sundanese sets him apart from his contemporaries. Godi makes full use of the language, and is especially known for his striking sound patterns. His poems have been published in four volumes: Jagat Alit (Microcosm), Surat-surat Kaliwat (Letters of the Past), Blues Kere Lauk (Dried Fish Blues) and Sajak Dongeng si Ujang (Poetic Stories for Ujang).

Dr Safrina Soemadipradja Noorman teaches in the English Department of the Faculty of Arts and Language Education, Indonesian University of Education, Bandung. Safrina completed her doctoral degree in Literature at the University of Indonesia, Jakarta. As part of her doctoral study, she was also a Fulbright scholar at Illinois State University. Although Sundanese by birth, Safrina only began to embrace her heritage after 2001 when she helped organize the First International Conference on Sundanese Culture. Since then, she has been involved in various activities relating to Sundanese culture, including the translation of literary works. Beside Sundanese culture, her other interests are Children's and Adolescent Literature and Popular Culture.

Item 7. The Herb Feith Foundation Seminar Series 2012
Seminar 2: Film Screening: John Darling’s ‘Below the Wind’ with Introductory Talk by Sara Darling

Wednesday 20th June 2012, from 7.30pm
The Cumming Theatre (K321), Building K, Monash University Caulfield Campus

Light refreshments will be served.

In this second seminar of the 2012 Series, the 1994 film ‘Below the Wind’ will be screened, with an introductory talk about the film and its director John Darling by his widow Sara Darling.

Many Australians know little about the large number of Indonesian fishing boats seized and destroyed by Australian quarantine and customs authorities, not to mention the thousands of Indonesian fishermen arrested and detained. This film Below the Wind explores the background of these fishermen and why they have been caught up in the complex issues of territorial waters and fishing zones. It focuses sympathetically on the nomadic Sama Bajo people, poor “sea gypsies” who live on small boats or stilt houses in eastern Indonesia. Their expeditions to the northwest coast of Australia to trade and fish for trochus, trepang and shark fin predate European settlement and are recorded in Arnhem Land aboriginal song cycles. With their traditional areas in Indonesia fished out by commercial interests, they have been compelled to look further afield. At the same time Australian governments have been expanding their claimed territorial waters. The lives of the Sama Bajo are trapped by the interests of large commercial ventures, and the political issues of Indonesian and Australian governments.

John Darling (1946-2011) was an Australian documentary filmmaker who lived for many years in Bali. His films, which have been internationally screened in cinemas and on television and have received a number of awards, are remarkable for their empathy with their subjects. In December 2004 a retrospective of his works was screened at the
Jakarta International Film Festival to enthusiastic acclaim. His nine documentary films include *Lempad of Bali* (1978), *Bali Hash* (1985) and the 1987 *Bali Tryptych* series (*The Mountain to the Sea, The Path of the Soul and Demons and Deities*). His last documentary *The Healing of Bali* (2003) was co-produced by his wife Sara, who will introduce John’s work before the screening of *Below the Wind*.

For enquiries about this event, please contact Eric Cheng on (03) 9903 4616.
For information on travelling, parking and campus map –
www.monash.edu.au/campuses/caulfield/

**Item 8. Monash Asia Seminars – MAI Public Seminar**

‘*Is Cross National Exchange of Social Policy Knowledge Feasible?*’

Dr Devaki Monani, University of Technology Sydney & Institute of Cultural Diversity

**Thursday 28th June 2012, 4.00pm – 5.00pm**
Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

Can developing countries benefit from the knowledge of social policy in developed countries? Is Cross national comparison of social policies feasible? What are the pitfalls of comparing two contrasting nations? What are the benefits of knowledge exchange between developed and developing countries? Dr Monani’s paper argues for a strong knowledge exchange to occur between developed and developing countries, currently much of the literature focuses around the ways in which developed countries donate foreign-aid to poorer countries. This needs to change. This paper will focus on case studies and findings from my PhD thesis.

**Dr Devaki Monani** completed her PhD from the University of Melbourne in 2008, she conducts research on the subject topic of diversity, human rights and notions of citizenship. Since last year she is based at the Institute of Cultural Diversity (NGO) www.culturaldiversity.net.au. She also teaches at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and is involved with cultural diversity research at the Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Centre (UTS). A recent publication important publication she has worked on is ‘*International Student Futures in Australia: A Human Rights Perspective on Moving Forward to Real Action*’ by Prof Andrew Jakubowicz with Dr Devaki Monani. A copy of the full report can be obtained at www.assa.edu.au/publications/occasional_papers/2010_No6.php

**Item 9. New Book on Tibet by MAI Researcher**

‘*Historical Dictionary of Tibet*’

Edited by John Powers and David Templeman*
Publisher: Scarecrow Press Inc
Tibet is a land bounded by the world’s highest mountains, and it is the repository of an ancient culture. For centuries it was viewed by Europeans as a remote, mystical place populated by Buddhist masters with supernatural powers and profound wisdom. In contrast to this image, it was once a warlike country whose expansionist rulers conquered a vast empire that incorporated much of central Asia and parts of China. Even now the Tibetan Plateau remains a scene of contestation, both ideologically and militarily. Major popular uprisings in 1959, 1988, and 2008 have drawn the attention of the world’s media, and its religious teachers often attract large crowds when they travel overseas. The situation in the country remains highly volatile today, as the 2008 uprising—the largest and most widespread in the history of the region—attests.

The *Historical Dictionary of Tibet* is the most comprehensive dictionary published to date on Tibetan history. It covers the history of Tibet from 27,000 BCE to the present through a chronology, an introductory essay, an extensive bibliography, and over 1,000 cross-referenced dictionary entries on important personalities, politics, economy, foreign relations, religion, culture, anthropology, and sociology. This book is an excellent access point for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about Tibet.

* Dr David Templeman is an MAI Research Fellow. He has more than 40 years of experience of academic study of Tibetan history, culture, and religion.

**Item 10. New Book on Cambodia with Chapters by MAI Researcher ‘Cambodia: Progress and Challenges since 1991’**


Publisher: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) Singapore

In the 20 years since the Paris accords of 1991 brought peace to Cambodia, the country has undergone what can only be described as astounding change. From a polity where the entire fabric of society had been rent asunder through years of war and genocide, contemporary Cambodia is fast becoming a vibrant state and assuming a new position in the Asia-Pacific region. The contributions to this volume — many by prominent figures who were intimately connected with the process — describe the diverse strands of mediation and peace-building which went into the creation of the 1991 accords. The subsequent role of UNTAC and the 1993 general elections in the process of Cambodian revival and social rebuilding are also described. While not denying that obstacles and difficulties remain, the contributions outline the evolving economic, political, religious, and human resource situations within Cambodia, while also examining the country’s contemporary international relations. This book constitutes a particularly fitting testament to the twenty years of Cambodian reconstruction which have followed the 1991 peace accords.

Chapters by **Julio A Jeldres** (MAI Research Fellow)

*Chapter 7: Cambodia’s Relations with China: A Steadfast Friendship
Chapter 11: Cambodia’s Relations with France since the Paris Agreements of 1991*
Item 11. ARC Linkage Project on Radicalisation 2012 Annual Conference ‘Countering Terrorism in Australia and Indonesia 10 Years after Bali’

26-28 September 2012 (closing date for abstract submission Monday 25th June 2012)
Monash University Law Chambers, 555 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

ARC Linkage Project on Radicalisation - 2012 Annual Conference ‘Countering terrorism in Australia and Indonesia 10 years after Bali’ aims to link theory and practice and thus will interest a wide spectrum of counter terrorism stakeholders including academics, security practitioners, policy makers, community leaders and students. The general public is also most welcome to attend. While the conference will focus on Australia and Indonesia, it will also address issues of violent extremism more broadly.

The conference will address the following themes:
- Australian and Indonesian responses to terrorism since Bali
- Australia/Indonesia counter-terrorism cooperation
- Impact of terrorism on international relations in Australasia and SE Asia
- Disengagement and deradicalisation in the region
- Psychology of terrorism
- Countering violent extremism (CVE) programs
- Homegrown terrorism and diaspora connections

TIMEFRAME FOR PAPERS:
* Abstracts and bios to be submitted by: 25th June 2012, 5:00pm
* Please submit abstracts and bios to: gtrec2012conf@monash.edu
* Notification of abstract acceptance: 10 July 2012

For more details on conference registration, please visit

For all conference enquiries, please direct them to:
* Email: gtrec2012conf@monash.edu
* Telephone: +61 3 9903 2541

Item 12. Exhibition ‘Wood Metal and Clay @ Monash Gallery of Art’

Monash Gallery of Art, 860 Ferntree Gully Road, Wheelers Hill VIC 3150
7th June – 28th July 2012
Mon-Fri 10am – 8.30pm, Sat 9am – 4pm, Sun open for special events
(public holidays closed)

Admission Free – Donations Welcome – Ample Parking

The Museum of Indonesian of Arts invites you to ‘Wood Metal and Clay @ MGA’, an exhibition of items associated with games, guests, decoration, etc.

Opening event: Sunday 10th June 2012, 2pm – 4pm
in the Meeting Room, including a dance performance and light refreshments,
**Special events** in the Meeting Room:

**Sunday 24th June 2012, 2-4 pm: Kite Making Workshop**

**Sunday 15th July 2012, 2-4 pm: Sundanese Dance Workshop Teaching ‘Tari Kijang’ (Deer Dance)**

Monash Gallery of Art (Tel: 9562 1569)  
Gallery hours: Tue-Fri 10am – 5 pm, Sat-Sun 12noon – 5pm, Mon closed.  
For enquiries, please contact Museum of Indonesian Arts (Tel: 9525 2683)

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**Item 13. Concert ‘The New Ancient Songs’ featuring the music of the Persian Composer Reza Vali**

**Sunday 24th June 2012, from 7.00pm**

Flockart Hall, Methodist Ladies’ College (Barkers & Glenferrie Rd Intersection, Kew)

**Tickets:** Adults $30, Concession, AISOV, VFG, ANAM & VCA Members $20  
Bookings Essential - SMS 0430 300 179; or email: info@victorianpac.com

The Victorian Persian Arts Centre invites you to a night of cross-cultural classics “The New Ancient Songs” featuring world premieres of works by the acclaimed Iranian composer Reza Vali performed by noted international performers.

The concert will consist of the world premieres of Zand (Calligraphy No. 2) version for Ney (the Persian vertical classical reed flute that requires the sound being produced from inside the mouth), and string trio, as well as Three Romantic Songs, homage à Johannes Brahms, for violin and piano. Other pieces on the program will be Folk Songs (Set No. 9) for flute and cello, Four Persian Folk Songs for voice and piano, and Folk Songs (Set No. 11B) for flute/ney, violin, viola, violoncello, and Persian Suite for flute and piano.

*The New Ancient Songs* share the mission to develop new music that draws its inspiration from the musical elements of Iranian classical and regional music styles. This framework also embraces the modern performance practices, techniques and timbres that mainly reflect the composer’s own compositional voice. The Middle Eastern microtonal structure used in a manner that would be the reminiscent of the art of Persian calligraphy, heterophonic texture and melismatic melody elaboration as well as whirling dervishes.

This concert has been organised in honour of the 60th birthday of the composer and has been made possible through the support of 'The Victorian Persian Arts Centre' (VPAC). VPAC is proud to present the internationally known musicians Melika Tehrani Bastaninezhad (soprano), Elizabeth Sellars (violin), Suying Aw (viola), Rosanne Hunt (cello), Gudrun Beilhartz (piano) and Arya BastaniNezhad (Persian ney, flute, piccolo, alto& bass flute).
Past Events

Item 14. MAI PhD Candidates Presenting at a Public Forum on ‘The Rising Tides of Climate Change - The Challenge to Bangladesh’, University of South Australia

Our two PhD candidates, Mr Mohammad Harunur Rashid Bhuyan and Mr Iftikhar Arman Rashid, were invited to make keynote presentations at a public forum on “The Rising Tides of Climate Change - The Challenge to Bangladesh”, jointly organized by The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, University of South Australia and Just Sustainability Australia in Adelaide on 9th May 2012. This forum aimed to raise awareness and discuss the consequences of large scale displacement of people due to rising sea levels in climate vulnerable countries like Bangladesh.

Mr Bhuyan spoke on community level challenges of climate change, raising the need for knowledge transfer and research collaboration between Australia and developing countries, while Mr Rashid spoke on the traditional and non-traditional security implications of climate change, including possible conflicts in South Asia. Both speakers highlighted Bangladesh’s successes in climate change preparedness, including formulation of adaptation strategies and policies. They called for global advocacy on disbursement of climate funds and community-level support for local resilience.

The audio-recording of this event (1 hour 26 min, 35MB) is available for download at http://w3.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2012events/Rising-tides-of-climate-change.mp3

Both candidates also gave a radio interview on The Wire, which is a daily current affairs program broadcast exclusively on community and indigenous radio stations around Australia. The report and the link to audio-recording can be found at www.thewire.org.au/storyDetail.aspx?ID=9116

Item 15. MAI Researcher Speaking at 2011 Tiffin Talks on ‘Terrorism in Bombay (Mumbai) and India’s Historical Amnesia’, Australia India Institute, The University of Melbourne

At the 2011 Tiffin Talks organised by the Australia India Institute, Professor Marika Vicziany spoke about ‘Terrorism in Bombay (Mumbai) and India’s Historical Amnesia’. She examined some of the bombings which have taken place in India over the past twenty years with a particular focus on Mumbai. In her talk, she shared her view on the following issues.

- The Bombay Bombings of 12 March 1993
- Why understanding Hindu fundamentalism is important
- The terrorism attack on Bombay on 13 July 2011
- Indian intelligence weaknesses
- Examples of Hindu terrorism

The transcript of her talk, along with others, is available for download at www.aii.unimelb.edu.au/featured/tiffin-talks-2
Item 16. The Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM) in Kabul Received Funding from British Council

In recognition of the importance of supporting the professional development and special needs of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM), set up by the Ministry of Education of Afghanistan in conjunction with the MAI, the British Council in Kabul has contributed a total of GBP 210,000 to ANIM early this year.

The ANIM, under the directorship of Dr Ahmad Sarmast (MAI Research Fellow), provides high quality core education and specialist training in Afghan traditional, as well as Western music. It also serves as a research centre for the ‘Revival of Afghanistan Music (ROAM)’, an action research project led by Dr Ahmad Sarmast and Prof Marika Vicziany at the Monash Asia Institute (MAI).

The fund received from the British Council will strengthen the ANIM faculty teaching and professional development of students for the sustainability of music education, development of music sector and the important role that music will play in social development in Afghanistan.

For more information on the ANIM, please visit http://afghanistannationalinstituteofmusic.org/

Item 17. New Book from Monash Asia Series

‘Old Myths and New Approaches: Interpreting Ancient Religious Sites in Southeast Asia’

Edited by Alexandra Haendel
Published by Monash University Publishing

Old Myths and New Approaches: Interpreting Ancient Religious Sites in Southeast Asia brings together recent research by leading experts on Southeast Asia in the pre-modern era. Chapters cover sites from Burma, the early and Angkor-period Cambodia and Vietnam, on the mainland, to temples in Java and Bali, and discuss many different aspects of these sites’ uses and functions. This comprehensive, innovative and interdisciplinary work will be invaluable to scholars and students of historical Southeast Asia.

Dr Alexandra Haendel received her PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London and is currently an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Monash Asia Institute. Her research focuses on the relationship between space and usage in Hindu-Buddhist foundations in South and Southeast Asia and on how this relates to the prescriptions given in ancient texts.

For information on other titles in the Monash Asia Series, please visit www.publishing.monash.edu.au/ma-series.html
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@monash.edu