Monash Asia Institute Bulletin
August 2012

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

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Item 1. From the MAI Director’s Desk

Professor Koichi Iwabuchi has been appointed as a Chair in Media and Cultural Studies in the Monash Faculty of Arts, and will also take on the role as Director of the Monash Asia Institute. He is due to arrive at Monash in late September. We look forward to welcoming Professor Iwabuchi to Monash, and to working with him on exciting Asia-related projects and events.

In the meanwhile, August proves to be another great month for seminars and other activities that collectively cover a diverse range of topics and geographical areas. There are also calls for papers, including the Austral+Asia postgraduate conference and a Vietnamese Legal Studies Workshop; a gamelan & wayang performance; and a new publication, all of which involve the support and organizational energies of Monash University.

The next MAI Bulletin is scheduled for Monday 3rd September 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 29th August 2012.

From Dr Max Richter and the MAI team

Item 2. ASEAN Seminar ‘Reflections on the Response to the 2011 Southeast Asia Floods’

Rebecca Barber, Policy and Advocacy Advisor with Save the Children in Australia

Friday 3rd August 2012, 3.00pm – 4.00pm
Room HB.32 Basement Level, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

All welcome – No charge.
RSVP: europecentre@monash.edu

Between July and October 2011, Southeast Asia suffered the worst flooding in the region in more than a decade. More than 20 million people were affected.

Despite the scale of the disaster, neither the Thai nor Cambodian governments made formal requests for assistance, although both indicated that such assistance would be welcomed. This caused considerable confusion amongst international actors – and even within the national disaster management authorities themselves – regarding roles and responsibilities. The resulting humanitarian response was neither as efficient, nor as accountable, as it could have been.

Rebecca Barber pays particular attention to the issue of humanitarian financing, leadership and coordination in the absence of a formal public request for assistance. She provides recommendations with a view to ensuring that in such contexts, disaster management capacities at all levels – national, regional and international – are maximised so that when a disaster does occur, aid is provided where it is needed, when it is needed, to those who need it most.
Rebecca Barber has worked in the humanitarian relief and development sector for the past nine years, initially with a focus on protection, human rights and rule of law, and more recently in humanitarian policy and advocacy. Rebecca has worked in Indonesia, Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Timor Leste, with a range of organisations including Oxfam, the International Rescue Committee, and the Norwegian Refugee Council.

**Item 3. Dr Geoff Raby delivering The Second Annual Richard Larkins Oration**

**Tuesday 7th August 2012, from 5.30pm**
**State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne**

Vice-Chancellor's Professorial Fellow and former Australian Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China, Dr Geoff Raby will deliver the second annual Richard Larkins Oration. To be held next Tuesday evening at the State Library of Victoria, Dr Raby will draw on his extensive experience in international relations when he delivers Australia-China Relations at 40: pivot, divot and the US.

The Richard Larkins Oration is named after the former Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, Emeritus Professor Richard Larkins AO, who retired from the position in 2009. The oration is named in recognition of Professor Larkins’ achievements as an educator, researcher and community leader.

As Vice-Chancellor, Professor Larkins passionately advocated Monash University’s mission to improve the human condition by advancing knowledge and fostering creativity in communities around the world. In keeping with this, the Richard Larkins Oration provides an opportunity for a distinguished member of the international community to speak about the great challenges of our time and how we might address them.

**Dr Geoff Raby** was appointed a Vice-Chancellors Fellow in 2011. His previous roles at the Department of Foreign Affairs include Australia’s lead negotiator for the World Trade Organisation, APEC Ambassador, First Assistant Secretary International Organisations and Legal Division and Trade Negotiations and Organisations Division. Dr Raby also held the position of Deputy Secretary and Australia’s Ambassador to Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation.

Staff are welcome to attend, but spaces are limited. Please email external.relations@monash.edu to register.
Item 4. Monash Asia Seminars – JSC Seminar Series
‘Suffering "Galapagos Syndrome": Japan, Australia, and the Whaling Dispute’

Dr Yoko Harada, Deakin University

Wednesday 8th August 2012, 4.00pm – 5.00pm
Japanese Study Centre Auditorium, Building 54 (next to the bus loop), Monash University Clayton Campus

In Australia one is exposed to regular and often sensational media reports criticising Japan for being a whaling nation. On the other hand, reports from Japan give one a slight different impression about the Japanese whaling. Gradually, one comes to recognise a severe gap which exists between what is reported in Australia and what is happening in Japan. This presentation attempts to tease out a particular problem shared by both parties by using a term “Galapagos Syndrome”, which is used in Japan to depict a population’s inward looking insular collective psyche.

In this presentation, I will examine the current state of the whaling debate in Japan and Australia respectively: in Japan, four different camps represent the whaling dispute’s complex circumstances, while in Australia it is necessary to understand the path which led the country to become a firm anti-whaling nation. Finally, I will explore the inward looking trend regarding the whaling dispute in both countries.

Dr. Yoko Harada was born in Tokyo and spent her childhood in Vancouver, Sydney and Osaka. She returned to Australia in 2003 and completed a Master of Social Change and Development and then a PhD (2009) at the University of Wollongong. Between July 2010 and June 2012, she held an Alfred Deakin Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at Deakin University researching a project entitled "Enquiry into the fight of the century: Whaling dispute between Australia and Japan". Her research interest is primarily on Australian politics, history and culture, and the bilateral relationship between Australia and Japan.

Item 5. Monash Asia Seminars – JSC Seminar Series
‘Anti-Nuclear Movement in Japan post 3/11’

Prof Takao Takahara, Meiji Gakuin University, Faculty of International Studies

Tuesday 14th August 2012, 4.00pm – 5.30pm
Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

As Japan struggles with life following the 3/11 disaster, the traditional anti-nuclear movement is faced with new (and exciting?) challenges. In this presentation the speaker wishes to share questions discussed by proponents of nuclear disarmament in Japan over the past summer.

Takao Takahara is Professor of International Politics and Peace Research at Faculty of International Studies, Meiji Gakuin University. He also is a member of the International Peace Research Institute Meiji Gakuin University (PRIME), to which he formerly served as Director (2002-2004). Trained at the University of Tokyo (B.A. Politics, B.A. Public
Law, and Assistant Researcher of International Politics 1979-1981), he has held Visiting Scholar positions at the Peace Studies Program, Cornell University (1991-93), the Program on General Disarmament, University of Maryland (2000-01), as well as at the University of Helsinki (2010) and Monterey Institute of International Studies (2011). He also was Visiting Professor at Hope College, Michigan (2005-06), where he taught for a semester on Peace Issues in Japan. Current research interests include delegitimizing nuclear weapons and demilitarization of international relations through civil societies. He is especially interested in demystification of the "nuclear umbrella" with a view to establishing a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Northeast Asia.

**Item 6. Monash Asia Seminars – JSC Seminar Series**

*‘Memories of WWII in Papua New Guinea’*

**Andrew Saito**

*Wednesday 15th August 2012, 1.30pm – 2.30pm*

Japanese Study Centre Auditorium, Building 54 (next to the bus loop), Monash University Clayton Campus

Andrew Saito, currently a Fulbright Scholar in Papua New Guinea, will discuss his research into the enduring memories of World War II in PNG, including the physical remnants of the War, and the memories of elders who lived through that historic event. Andrew Saito's plays have been featured at The Cutting Ball Theatre, which will produce his play Krispy Kritters in the Scarlett Night in May 2013, Handful Players, the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Intersection for the Arts, Mixed Phoenix Theatre Group, Montalvo Arts Center, the Asian American Theatre Company, and Brava Theatre. He has taught playwriting in Mayan communities in Guatemala, and collaborated with the Andean theatre company Kusiwasi, and the legendary Peruvian theatre collective Yuyachkani. His work has been supported by Theatre Bay Area, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, the Stanley Foundation, and the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights. He is a Core Apprentice at the Playwrights Center of Minneapolis and a Resident Playwright at Playwrights Foundation, in San Francisco. He holds a MFA in Playwriting from the Iowa Playwrights Workshop.

**Item 7. Monash Asia Seminars – CSEAS Seminar Series**

*‘Seventeenth-Century Dutch Colonial Expansion and the Australian Frontier (or How to Research Imperial Ideology Before the Age of Empires)’*

**Dr Arthur Weststeijn, Royal Netherlands Institute, Rome**

*Wednesday 15th August 2012, 4.00pm – 5.00pm*

Japanese Study Centre Auditorium, Building 54 (next to the bus loop), Monash University Clayton Campus

Surprisingly little research has been done on the ideological origins of seventeenth-century Dutch imperialism. This is especially remarkable since the Dutch case was the only early-modern example of a republic that successfully expanded overseas, combining a war for liberty at home with a project for empire abroad. In this talk, Dr
Weststeijn will address the intellectual background to this ‘republican empire’. His main contention will be that early-modern Dutch political culture was dominated by, on the one hand, a continuous fear for losing internal concord, and, on the other, an untameable drive for outward expansion – a conflated obsession that is nicely summarized in the official motto of the Dutch Republic: concordia res parvae crescent [in concord small states grow].

After a general introduction to his project, Dr Weststeijn will illustrate some of the problems he faces in his research by focusing on the earliest Dutch encounters with Australia (or New Holland, as the Dutch were keen to call it). In particular, he will discuss the contentious relationship between the VOC as a non-state colonial actor and private colonial agents such as Isaac le Maire, as well as the ideological links between commercial expansion, voyages of discovery and colonial settlement. He thinks these issues show that Dutch expansion in early-modern South-East Asia was fundamentally different from the ‘Age of Empires’ that we often have in mind when we talk about imperialism. So the main question is, what does imperial ideology actually mean in this early-modern context?

Arthur Weststeijn is the Director of Historical Studies at the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome. He holds degrees in History and Philosophy from the University of Amsterdam and a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence. His first book is ‘Commercial Republicanism in the Dutch Golden Age. The Political Thought of Johan & Pieter de la Court’ (Brill, 2012), discusses the relationship between commerce and politics in seventeenth-century Dutch republican culture. His current research concerns the ideological origins of early-modern Dutch colonialism.

**Item 8. Monash Asia Seminars – JSC Seminar Series**

‘Post War Japan, Post 3/11 Japan: Modernity, Compassion and the Nation’

Prof Carolyn Stevens, School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, Monash University

**Wednesday 22nd August 2012, 4.00pm – 5.00pm**

Japanese Study Centre Auditorium, Building 54 (next to the bus loop), Monash University Clayton Campus

While the magnitude 9 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster of 11 March 2011 was unprecedented in Japanese modern history, some observed that through its experience of disasters such as the Great Kanto Earthquake, the Tokyo air raids, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, the Sarin Gas Attack and the Great Hanshin Earthquake, Japanese society was better placed than any other collective in the developed world to overcome these catastrophes. ‘Resilience’ was a word used repeatedly with admiration to describe the Japanese people’s responses to the events. This lecture explores how suffering and resilience have been expressed in the postwar era, comparing images taken in the immediate aftermath of 3/11 with other iconic images of Japanese victims, such as the hibakusha of Nagasaki, and Minamata disease patients. In particular, I hope to shed insight on how suffering is visually expressed to create a compassionate collective identity. An analysis of these photographs give us an opportunity us to re-
examine the meaning of victimhood, and a re-examination of the nation that responds to tragedy

**Item 9. Monash Asia Seminars – MAI Public Event**
**Roundtable Discussion on ‘Cosmopolitanism’ led by Dr Barnita Bagchi**

**Thursday 30th August 2012, 3.00pm – 5.00pm**
**Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus**

Dr Barnita Bagchi (University of Utrecht, The Netherlands) will lead off this roundtable discussion with the following reflections.

‘In recent years, we have returned to the category of cosmopolitanism, which speaks to us, in all its connotative richness and its impossibly utopian optimism, in our dark yet border-crossing times. The cosmopolitan is a citizen of the world, a metaphorically rich concept with tremendous practical difficulties. Formulated by the Stoics in ancient Greece, the concept was used by Immanuel Kant during the Enlightenment, in the context of world politics where he spoke for a federation of nations that would break out of purely national, selfish interests, in the interest of global justice. From left-liberal scholars such as Amartya Sen, KA Appiah, and Martha Nussbaum, to radical anti-liberal writers, such as James Clifford, or Bruce Robbins, critics have vibrantly debated what cosmopolitanism is. In my lead-off, I shall speak about pluralist, hyphenated, post-globalization, non-Eurocentric cosmopolitanisms, with a focus on India. In this context, I shall be examining a few recent films, arguably key vehicles for contemporary cosmopolitanisms.’

After this introduction, participants in the roundtable will be asked contribute their comments, observations and research results.

**Item 10. MAI-MUEEC Roundtable Discussion on the EU and India**
**‘Contemporary and Historical Perspectives’**

**Friday 31st August 2012, 9.00am – 11.00am**
**Room HB.32 Basement Level, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus**

**Discussants:**
Professor Pascaline Winand, Director Monash European and EU Centre (MEEUC)
Professor Marika Vicziany, Professor of Asian Political Economy, Monash Asia Institute
Mr David Treisman, Monash Asia Institute (to be confirmed)
Modalities of Propagation of Islam in the Sulawesi Interior: Lessons for Understanding Islam in Eastern Indonesia?”

Professor Kathryn Robinson, Research School of Asia and the Pacific, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University

Friday 31st August 2012, 4.00pm – 5.30pm
Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

The people of the mountainous interior of Sulawesi (Indonesia), at the confluence of the contemporary borders of South, Southeast and Central Sulawesi, were connected by trade in jungle products, as well as iron ore and weapons, to coastal sultanates that embraced Islam, from the 15th century (Ternate) to the 17th century (Luwu). However, they retained distinctive local identities and did not become Muslim until the region came under Dutch control in the early twentieth century. Anthony Johns wrote in 1975 that there was little written about the modality of spread of Islam in the Indonesian archipelago. Scholarship since then has filled some of this the gap in knowledge, but has revealed diversity in the modalities of the propagation of Islam and its social and political effects. Accounts of the (relatively late) spread of Islam in South Sulawesi, in Bugis and Makassarese communities, have focused on the role of trade as well as political elites, Islamic institutions and also textual traditions.

This paper explores the manner of Islamic conversion in the villages on the shores of Lake Matano at the beginning of the twentieth century, where colonial ‘pacification’ played a key role. An intensification of piety was linked to the Darul Islam rebellion following Indonesian independence. How does this local history of Islam, and the forms of everyday religious practice that have emerged relate to the Sorowako response to the intensification of everyday religiosity in contemporary Indonesia? The paper draws on fieldwork in the mining town of Sorowako, South Sulawesi from 1976 to the present, as well as historical sources. It will bring a comparative perspective from the emerging research findings of an Australian research Council–funded project ‘Being Muslim in Eastern Indonesia’ in progress at the Australian National University, on which Prof Robinson is Chief Investigator.

Kathryn Robinson is Professor in the Department of Anthropology, in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University. She has been researching in Indonesia since 1976 on issues including mining and development, gender relations, Islam, and migration. Her major publications include Stepchildren of Progress: The Political Economy of Development in an Indonesian Mining Town (1986); Living Through Histories: Culture, History and Social Life in South Sulawesi (1998) (ed. with Mukhlis Paine); Women in Indonesia: Gender Equity and Development (ed. with Sharon Bessell); Asian and Pacific Cosmopolitans: Self and Subject in Motion (ed, 2007) and Gender, Islam and Democracy in Indonesia (2009). She was editor of the Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology until this year, is past president of ASAA and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Her current major research project is entitled Being Muslim in eastern Indonesia, which involves 9 researchers (including PhD scholars) researching local expressions of Muslim identity and practice in Eastern Indonesia.
Item 12. Monash University School of Music-Conservatorium
SOUND Series 2012 ‘Gamelan and Wayang’

Friday 31st August 2012, from 7.30pm
Music Auditorium, School of Music–Conservatorium, Building 68, Monash University Clayton Campus

A beguiling performance of Javanese gamelan music and wayang, the ancient shadow-puppet theatre tradition. Joining the Monash University Gamelan Orchestra will be internationally acclaimed, eighth-generation delang (shadow-puppeteer), Ki Joko Susilo, noted gamelan musician, Ki Poedijono, and local Javanese gamelan group, the Melbourne Community Gamelan, in The Abduction of Sita, a shadow-puppet play from the Ramayana epic.

Admission: Adult $10.00 Concession $6.00.
Tickets available at the door from 7pm.

To reserve your seats, please call Monash Academy of Performing Arts Box Office 9905 1111.

Item 13. Call for Papers – AUSTRAL + ASIA ‘Cultural Space, Theatricality and the Performance of Asia in Australasia’

The conference AUSTRAL + ASIA ‘Cultural Space, Theatricality and the Performance of Asia in Australasia’ is the inaugural event of the Asian Performance Research Cluster, and the first annual themed conference sponsored by the Monash Asia Institute.

15 -16 November 2012
Performing Arts Centre, Monash University Clayton Campus

This conference seeks to define theatre, performance, and cultural spaces in Australasia. We would like participants in this event to engage with the theatricals and performatives that situate Australasia in Asia and Asian theatre and cultural performance in Australia. We recognise that in Australia and Asia, with their complex multi-ethnic and multicultural communities, contested histories and sites of shifting power or influence, it is a challenge to establish equal opportunities for cultural expression through theatre and performance. Moreover, Asians who find themselves practising and performing in these “third cultural spaces” are also faced with the challenge of creating a framework for both theory and practice that responds to questions of identity, tradition, cultural change (innovation) and preservation, especially in a country such as Australia. This space is also what theorists and cultural activists like Homi K. Bhabha and Gloria Anzaldúa consider as borderlands. It is where individuals and groups may examine hybridity (of culture, language, races, ethnicities) to understand their origins, the present remaking of their culture, the future direction of their lives, and to deconstruct dominant ideologies that shape all of these. Thus, we propose a dialogue between Australian and Asian performers, scholars, and audiences (including policy makers) about issues of cultural identity, community building and changes that occur in this “land down under (Asia)” as seen, practiced and received through theatre and performance-making.
Submission Process
We invite community-based artists, practitioners, researchers, policy leaders, academics and students to submit an abstract related to the stated themes for this conference. We seek paper/research participation as well as new ways to stimulate a discussion such as a reflection on a creative or critical practice of an individual’s or theatre group’s experience or a short performance that responds to questions related to the conference theme. Papers must be no more than 20 minutes long when presented, and will be followed by a 10 minute discussion. Workshops or performances must be in the range of 30-40 minutes, followed by a 10 minute discussion.

Please email an abstract of no more than 300 words for a short paper and 300-500 words proposal for a workshop or a performance plus a short biography to reagan.maiquez@monash.edu or tharanga.dandeniya@monash.edu. Please indicate in the subject of your email “Conference Australia”. The deadline for all proposals is Friday 25th August 2012.

For further details, please visit http://arts.monash.edu.au/ecps/conferences/austral-asia/

Item 14. Call for Submissions – Postgraduate Conference 2012
‘Change and Continuity in the Middle East and Central Asia’

The ANU Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (Middle East and Central Asia) is convening a postgraduate conference titled ‘Change and Continuity in the Middle East and Central Asia’ on the 30th of November and 1st of December 2012 for local and international graduate students and early career researchers based in Australia and the region.

The two day interdisciplinary conference will offer an opportunity for emerging scholars to present new ideas and analysis on the region and potentially to have their work published in peer reviewed outlets.

PhD scholars are invited to submit a short conference abstract (of no more than 300 words) by Friday 17th August 2012 for consideration by the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies. Paper proposals should be within the disciplines of Political Science, International Relations, or Anthropology and Sociology, and relate to one or more of the following themes:

- Political Islam
- Peace and Conflict
- State Building
- Social Movements
- Gender
- Political Economy
- Revolutionary Change in the Arab World
- Nationalism and Identity

All participants whose abstracts have been accepted will be invited to present at the conference in person. Discussions will be encouraged, and presenters will be able to get feedback from their peers as well as academics in attendance on their work.
Presenters seeking to be considered for the conference publication, must submit their complete papers by 19 October 2012. These papers will be submitted for anonymous peer review by prominent academics in the field in line with HERDC guidelines. After the conference, a selection of the best papers will be published in an edited volume.

The CAIS Postgraduate Prize for best paper will also be awarded. The author of the winning paper will receive a prize, and their paper will be considered for publication.


**Item 15. Call for Papers – Vietnamese Legal Studies Graduate Student Workshop ‘Researching and Writing: Vietnamese Legal Change’**

The Asia-Pacific Business Regulation Group in the Department of Business Law at Monash University and the Asian Law Centre at the Melbourne Law School will host the 3rd Vietnamese Legal Studies Graduate Student Workshop, “Researching and Writing: Vietnamese Legal Change” on Thursday 29th November 2012, 10.00am – 3.00pm.

This Workshop aims to bring together postgraduate students around Australia who are researching topics relating to Vietnamese legal studies. 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, including Professor John Gillespie (Monash) and Professor Pip Nicholson (Melbourne).

Postgraduate students from around Australia are invited to present papers on a topic specifically related to their current research. Students are invited to present papers for a maximum of 10-15 minutes on a topic specifically related to their current postgraduate research.

Application form (obtained from Ms Samantha Stewart (Samantha.Stewart@monash.edu)) along with a 1,500 word précis (summary) of your paper must be submitted by 5.00pm Friday 19th October, 2012. Notification of the acceptance will be made by Friday 2nd November, 2012.

Postgraduate students attending the Workshop are expected to organise their own travel and accommodation.

A contribution (up to $300.00) towards the cost of travel to Melbourne may be available for interstate postgraduate students who wish to attend the Workshop. If you would like to apply for such funding, please complete page 4 of the application form.

Please direct all Workshop enquiries to Samantha Stewart, (Tel (03) 9903 4198 or Samantha.Stewart@monash.edu).
Item 16. The Third Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network ‘Connections, Corridors, and Communities’

The conference is organised by the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore; International Institute for Asian Studies, the Netherlands; the Asian Borderlands Research Network; in collaboration with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore.

11-13 October 2012
University Hall, National University of Singapore, Lee Kong Chian Wing, 21 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119077

Extensive land and maritime networks have crisscrossed Asia for centuries, providing the basis for encounters between diverse ethnic, linguistic, economic, religious, and political groups. Today, developments such as new infrastructural projects, an increase in media access, and renewed interest in shaping cross-border cultural identities serve to both underscore these long-standing linkages and create new forms of connections across Asia. During the 3rd Asian Borderlands Research Conference in Singapore, presentations will address continuities and ruptures along routes and borders in Asia, broadly related to the theme, Connections, Corridors, and Communities.

- Connections: How are Asian borderlands made more (or less) visible through the study of cross-border connections? In what ways does the idea of the “borderland” remain resilient throughout political and historical ruptures? What are the characteristics of various kinds of connections that are being created (as well as cut off) in Asian borderlands?

- Corridors: Are networks and paths throughout Asian borderlands being forged, reopened, diverted, or closed, and what are the effects of such processes? Can one conceive of “corridors” in relation to maritime or island borderlands, information technology networks, or bodily borders in Asia?

- Communities: What constitutes a “community” or “communities” in and across Asian borderlands, and how might these be contingent upon other factors, such as politics, environmental issues, and history? What are some of the barriers and restrictions to the creation of communities in the context of Asian borderlands? In what ways is a community defined by the state, by organizations, and/or by local individuals?

The Conference registration fee for observers includes a conference kit, teas, lunches and one dinner.

Regular (before 1st September): EUR 125; On-site: EUR 150
(PhD) students: Regular (before 1st September): EUR 80; On-site: EUR 100

For more information and registration, please visit the website at http://asianborderlands.net
Recent Events

Item 17. Monash Asia Seminars – MAI Public Seminar

‘Does Bangladesh Need a Blue-Green Revolution to Achieve a Green Economy?’

Professor Nesar Ahmed, University of Stirling & Bangladesh Agriculture University

Friday 27th July 2012, 4.00pm – 5.00pm
Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world and population is constantly increasing. The effects of climate change are a further threat to food security in Bangladesh as the country ranks first in terms of vulnerability to climate change. In order to meet the soaring demand for food, there is a need to increase rice and fish production as both are the staple foods of the people of Bangladesh. Nevertheless, a ‘blue-green revolution’ can offer a solution to these problems for achieving green economy, including food security, economic growth, livelihood opportunities and environmental benefits. Fish farming in rice fields is a combination of blue revolution (aquaculture) and green revolution (agriculture) referred to as a ‘blue-green revolution’ which is a form of sustainable intensification, i.e. producing more food from the same area of land without environmental impacts. The blue-green revolution can improve food security and economic growth as integrated rice-fish farming is better than rice monoculture in terms of food supply, productivity, profitability and sustainability. However, rice-fish farming remains marginal in Bangladesh because of climate change, including floods and droughts. Sustainable water management is likely to be the best route to adoption of rice-fish farming. It is possible that Bangladesh could become a food-secure and poverty-free country if we can accelerate economic growth and food production through a blue-green revolution.

Links to the audio-recording and the transcript of Prof Nesar Ahmed's interview on Radio Australia can be found at
www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/radio/program/asia-pacific/bangladesh-looks-to-the-bluegreen-revolution-for-food-security/988190

Nesar Ahmed is a ‘Recognised Teacher’ in the Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, UK for MSc in Aquatic Resource Development (ARD) programme. He is also a professor in the Department of Fisheries Management, Bangladesh Agricultural University. Nesar obtained his PhD from the Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, UK through a Department for International Development (DFID) UK scholarship and won the Endeavour Research Fellowship of the Australian Government for Postdoctoral Research at Charles Darwin University, Australia. Nesar also received Center for International Cooperation and Development Fellowship at the University of Pavia, Italy. Nesar has extensive research experience and has worked with a range of international donor agencies, including ADB, DANIDA, DFID, FAO, IFS, USAID, World Bank and WorldFish Center. Nesar has published extensively on a wide range of aquaculture and fisheries issues with articles appearing in peer reviewed journals such as Ambio, Aquaculture Economics and Management, Aquaculture International,

Item 18. The 1st ASEAN-Australia Youth Summit

The 1st ASEAN-Australia Youth Summit was held at Melbourne City Town Hall on 28 July 2012. Distinguished guests included H.E. Ms. Gillian Bird (Ambassador of Australia to ASEAN), H.E. Mr. Primo Alui Joelinato (Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia), and many others. After a series of speeches and the launching of the ASEAN Student Council Australia (ASCA), the 100 youth delegates selected for the Summit participated in two discussion sessions. The first of these focused on education issues and ideas within ASEAN, and was led by Dr. Max Richter (Director, Monash Asia Institute). The second session, on ASEAN-Australia relations, was led by Dr. Sally P. Wood (Manager, Applied Research & Analysis, Asialink).

To learn more about ASCA and their activities, please visit www.aseanausyouth.com, &/or contact Ms. Ashley Toh at: chairperson@mascavictoria.com.

Item 19. Book from Monash Asia Series

‘Identity, Language and Culture in Diaspora. A Study of Iranian Female Migrants in Australia’

By Maryam Jamarani
Published by Monash University Publishing

In a new socio-cultural environment, migrant identities are constantly repositioned. Exploration of this experience aids understanding of the fluid and flexible nature of identity itself. In Identity, Language and Culture in Diaspora, Maryam Jamarani deals with ‘diasporic identities’ and advances a paradigm in which ‘becoming’, rather than ‘being’, is emphasised.

Jamarani investigates changes in the identity of first generation Iranian Muslim women in Australia. Before migrating to Australia most of this group spent the first twenty years of their lives in the Western-oriented monarchy of Iran and then, after the 1978 Islamic Revolution, lived under the Islamic anti-Western government of the country. What effects have this distinctive experience had on the linguistic, cultural, national, gender and religious identity of individuals within this grouping? Jamarani aims to identify the core values that these women continue to hold after migration, as well as areas where their values have changed.

Engaging with contemporary theories of acculturation, Jamarani proposes a novel, sociolinguistically enhanced acculturation model, emphasising the significance of the
fluid and flexible nature of identity, which holds out the promise of shedding new light
on the acculturation process of migrants in general.

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