Monash Asia Institute Bulletin
December 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 (a personal note)**

With the last MAI Bulletin for 2012 I would like to take this opportunity to wish the MAI Community, MAI Bulletin subscribers and their loved ones a safe and pleasant Christmas / New Year period. As outgoing Director of MAI, I also wish to express my deep gratitude to Professor Rae Frances (Dean of Arts) for her support and mentorship over 2012, and to Dr Tikky Wattanapenpaiboon for her tireless logistical and administrative support. Finally, I wish Professor Koichi Iwabuchi all the very best as MAI Director from January 2013, and look forward to continuing work with him on a number of MAI endeavours.

From January 2013 I will be Research Fellow (Indonesian Engagement) with the Monash Sustainability Institute (DVC-Research) and housed in the School of Political & Social Inquiry (PSI) in the Faculty of Arts. I look forward to continuing to build on the collegiality and can-do environment that I found so inspiring during my tenure as MAI Director.

From Dr Max Richter
Item 2. Monash Asia Seminars – NCSAS Special Event
‘Roundtable Discussion with the South Asian Analysts from the Privy Council Office, Government of Canada’

Monday 10th December 2012, 1.00pm – 3.00pm
MAI Seminar Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

The Roundtable Discussion, organised by the National Centre for South Asian Studies, will be on the following areas.

- regional security and terrorism
- food security and mass poverty
- sustainable development, climate change and water management
- religious and cultural changes (both historical and contemporary)

Discussants:

Mr Jawad Hussain Qureshi, South Asia Analyst – Asia Division, Privy Council Office, Government of Canada

Mr Christopher Martin, South Asia Analyst – Asia Division Privy Council Office, Government of Canada

Prof Marika Vicziany, Professor of Asian Political Economy & President, South Asian Studies Association (SASA)

Mr Ifti Rashid, PhD Candidate, School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University

*** Postgraduates attending this roundtable discussion will be encouraged to report on their work. ***

Item 3. Call for Paper: Asian Association of Christian Philosophers

10 – 11 April 2013
Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines

The Asian Association of Christian Philosophers invites abstract submissions for its annual conference to be held from April 10 to 11, 2013, at Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines. The theme of the conference will be: ‘The Rise of the Asian Century: Trends in Asian and Christian Philosophy for Building a Just and Sustainable World’. The conference language will be English.

Development theorists, economists, and geo-political scientists have indicated that this century will mark the rise of Asia as the center of economic, political, and cultural activity. Once again, Asian cultures will have a great influence in the shaping of human civilization. This is an opportune time, as we come to the dawn of the Asian century, to reflect upon the trends of philosophical thought that Asian and Christian practitioners of philosophy, or practitioners of Asian or Christian philosophy, are accomplishing. If we are taking a central
role in the furthering of human civilization, we must understand what concerns us, how we use our traditions to understand the world that is unfolding, and how we can participate in the articulation of a just and sustainable future.

Submission Guidelines and Key Dates

Each abstract should be no longer than 500 words. Please submit it as an e-mail attachment, along with a short CV and a biographical note as separate attachments, to aacp2013@gmail.com.

- Deadline for abstracts: 15 December 2012 (Extended!)
- Notification of acceptance by 15 January 2013 (Extended!)
- Deadline for full papers: 28 February 2013 (Extended!)

Conference Details

This conference is co-sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, Ateneo de Manila University; the Philosophical Association of the Philippines; and the Philosophy Circle of the Philippines. Details regarding lodging and fees for both international and local participants will be announced at http://aacp2013.wordpress.com/.

Item 4. Call for Paper: International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) ‘Asian Cities: Colonial to Global’

Paper proposals are accepted for a seminar, in which how networks laid down during the era of Western colonial expansion in Asia have given certain cities a global edge will be investigated.

April 2013 (exact day – to be announced)
IIAS, Leiden, Netherlands

‘Asian Cities: Colonial to Global’ is intended to be a multi-disciplinary seminar. Contributions are welcome from the fields of architecture, urbanism, geography, area studies, history, linguistics, religious studies, social science, anthropology, etc., but please remember that the point of departure will always be the built environment.

Note also that this seminar is not intended to be an investigation into theoretical issues relating to the field of postcolonialism, rather it seeks to investigate more practical issues relating to the more literally ‘post-colonial’ (in the sense of the era following independence from erstwhile colonial or imperial powers), and the effects this has had on the built environment.

Contributions are invited that cover the regions of East, Southeast and South Asia (including countries that were not colonized (such as Japan or Thailand) or were only partially colonized (such as China).
Requirements

Abstracts should be submitted to Dr Gregory Bracken at the IIAS: gregory@cortlever.com

**Deadline: 31 January 2013**

Abstracts should consist of:

- Title
- Subtitle (if required)
- Text of approximately 200 words
- Contributor's name
- Academic discipline
- Affiliation

Please note that neither the IIAS nor TU Delft will be in a position to help fund contributors' trips to the seminar (if their abstract is selected for full-paper presentation). We do, however, intend to gather a selection of the papers into a book which will be a fully peer-reviewed publication. This may act as encouragement for academic administrators to allow their staff to make the trip. This seminar series has a good track record at converting previous events into peer-reviewed publications:

**Information**

For enquiries about the seminar, please contact Dr Gregory Bracken: gregory@cortlever.com

**Item 5. Monash Asia Seminars – Centre for Malaysian Studies Seminar**

“Education in a Multi-cultural Society: A Case Study of Malaysia”  
(recent event)

Professor Dr Sidek Baba, International Islamic University Malaysia

**Monday 26th November 2012, 3.00pm – 4.00pm**

**Room H2.22, Level 2, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus**

Malaysia is well known for its multi-religious and multicultural society. Its education policy, while stressing some important provisions such as the Malay Language as the medium of instruction, Islamic religious instruction for Muslims and moral education for non-Muslims, also allows for the usage of English as a Second Language of instruction. At the same time, the policy also accommodates for Vernacular Schools at the Primary Level as provision for the teaching of Chinese and Tamil and its use as a medium of instruction.

The objective of the Malaysian educational system is not only to focus on providing holistic education but also to foster unity among the younger generation of Malaysians. With the mission to achieve the goals of the former Prime Minister Tun Mahathir’s Vision 2020, Malaysia sets out to become a fully-developed country by making education the essential key to develop human potential.
Recently the government launched the Malaysia Education Blueprint (2013-2025) with the objectives to strengthen the issues of access, quality, equity, unity and efficiency within the education system. It designates six key attributes to be addressed for every student in order for Malaysia to attain globally competitiveness. In other words, every student will be nurtured to attain the knowledge, thinking skills, leadership skills, bilingual proficiency, ethics and spirituality, and national identity aligned with the National Education Philosophy. This transformational strategy in education is designed to prepare Malaysia to face domestic and global challenges and at the same time to foster greater unity among its citizens.

**Professor Dr Sidek Baba** is currently a professor at the Institute of Education, International Islamic University Malaysia’s (IIUM). He also served as the Deputy Rector of IIUM from 1995 to 2002. He obtained his Ph.D. in Educational Policies from Northern Illinois University, USA. He was appointed the Director of the Program to develop the curriculum for Islamic Civilization in Higher Education and the Centre for Asian Civilization at the University of Malaya. He is a board member of various organizations, including the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM) and the Institute of Integrity Malaysia.

**Item 6. New Book from Monash Asia Series**

*A Slow Ride into the Past. The Chinese Trishaw Industry in Singapore, 1942-1983*

by Jason Lim
Published by Monash University Publishing

The trishaw was introduced to Singapore after the surrender of the British in 1942. After the end of the war, the trishaw continued to be a popular mode of transport as it was cheap and the service was seen to be personalised. The trishaw industry was dominated by two Chinese minority dialect groups and their ubiquitous presence could be a threat to local government in the 1940s and 1950s. By the time Singapore achieved independence in 1965, however, the trishaw was regarded as backward and public perception of the trishaw riders also changed. As the island nation embarked on a programme of economic modernisation, the trishaws were increasingly squeezed out. Through the use of travelogues, government records, trishaw associations’ records and oral history interviews, this book studies the personal experiences of those involved in the industry and the role local and national governments play in its rise and decline.

**Jason Lim** graduated with a PhD from the University of Western Australia. He worked in the National Archives of Singapore before joining academia. He taught at Nanyang Technological University and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of History at the National University of Singapore. He joined the University of Wollongong as Lecturer in Asian History in 2010.

For information on other titles in the Monash Asia Series, please visit [www.publishing.monash.edu.au/ma-series.html](http://www.publishing.monash.edu.au/ma-series.html)
Item 7. Getting to Know … MAI Researchers

In the past two years, some of our colleagues were featured in the Monash University News section. We put a list together and the links are provided below - to help you get to know them.

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<td>Emeritus Professor Mark L Wahlqvist AO</td>
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<td>Mr Kamala Kanta Dash</td>
<td>PhD Candidate, School of Political and Social Inquiry, Faculty of Arts</td>
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Warmest regards for the Festive Season.
Happy Holidays to You All.

About the MAI Bulletin

The Monash Asia Institute Bulletin 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, this Bulletin and our events: http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/mai/

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