

Message from the Director



Time passes by quickly. It has been three years since I came to the Institute of China Studies (ICS). I introduced then a transformation plan for ICS and now with two years left, I believe the institute is well on its way towards a firmer and more secure footing. Indeed, during the 2016 planning meeting on the institute's future direction, it was decided that ICS would

work towards becoming a HiCOE (High Centre of Excellence), a centre recognized at the national level. This is a very challenging target but I am confident the team will work very hard to achieve the objective.

The year 2016 was a very active one for ICS. With the rise of China continuing to capture public attention, there was the need for the ICS to engaged with local and international scholars, as well as with the local community, on the implications of China's emergence as a world economic and political power. There was particular interest in China's announcement of its One Belt One Road Initiative and how its implementation would impact Malaysia and the region. In the course of the year therefore, the institute organized one major conference, three workshops and one public forum. The institute also held two public lectures and eight seminars/ talks. A conference in August entitled, "Towards A Diamond Era Between ASEAN and China", jointly organized with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia, was attended by more than 200 participants, the largest crowd for an ICS event. It also received wide media coverage.

In November, the Institute organized for the first time a workshop in Bahasa Malaysia on China. This is an important step towards fulfilling one of our objectives which is to explain China to the Malaysian public. Earlier in April 2016, a survey on public perception of Malaysians on China and Malaysia-China relations conducted by ICS found that the view of the public has mostly been positive. ICS hopes that through its coming programmes, the Malaysian public would continue to follow and understand developments in China and Sino-Malaysia relations

The Institute also expanded its network of academic collaboration, both at international and local levels. It established new links and consolidated existing ones. In particular, China's One Belt and Road Initiative led to the holding of conferences and workshops by our many international and local partners on the subject to which the ICS was invited, and we were represented by members of the institute. Through such participation the institute strengthened ties with the China People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, Guangxi University China-ASEAN Research Institute and the National Institute of

International Studies of the China Academy of Social Sciences and the Beijing International Center for Chinese Language. The ICS also established links with the Center for China's Relations with Neighboring Countries (CCRNC), Asian Studies Center, Fudan University and the China Overseas Development Center at the Huaqiao University, Xiamen.

At the national level, ICS forged close cooperation with the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malaysia (ACCCIM). The ACCCIM is an important federation with hundreds of business, company and individual members. The ICS-ACCCIM in 2016 collaborated in two workshops. More are being planned in 2017 and in coming years.

The Institute is also in close contact with the Wisma Putra (the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) through its Undersecretary for East Asia Division, HE Dato' Ganeson Sivagurunathan. Through this, ICS intends to provide policy input and thereby contribute to the nation.

The Institute welcomes Dato' Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan, former Ambassador of Malaysia to China, as Adjunct Professor at the Institute of China Studies. This is an important appointment as ICS and the University of Malaya firmly believe in close academia-industry collaboration as this will bring out the best in our research and academic output. Dato' Majid is presently also the President of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association. I believe Dato Majid, through his status and experience, will enable ICS to reach out to both the public and private sectors.

On 21 November, we sadly lost Professor Lee Poh Ping, who was only three weeks into his renewed appointment as Senior Research Fellow. Prof. Lee's passing left a big vacuum in ICS as he was not only one of our most prolific staff in terms of research output, but also along with Dr. Lee Kam Hing and Dr. Cheong Kee-Cheok, formed a troika of wise men whose counsel I keenly sought and valued. Most importantly, we have lost a mentor, a teacher and a friend.

Even as the year 2016 has come to a close, we would like to thank the many people and organizations for their support. In particular, I must record that the University of Malaya Senior Management has always given great assistance to the institute and the encouragement to see the institute becoming successful. We are also very grateful to our partners and friends who have readily come forward with support and good wishes to ensure that the Institute fulfill its expected role in society.

We look forward to 2017 and beyond with a stronger sense of purpose, knowing that the institute is on the right track. Even as we continue to transform and to move ICS forward, we want to continue working closely with our partners and friends, and to further expand our networks and ties. We also hope for stronger support from all quarters to make ICS a success. ♦

Bengkel Antarabangsa “Pengamatan China dari Dunia Melayu: Isu-isu Kontemporari dan Masa Depan”



On 23 November 2016, the Institute of China Studies (ICS) jointly organized with The Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM) and with the support of Sunsuria Sdn. Bhd., an International Workshop entitled “Pengamatan China dari Dunia Melayu: Isu-isu Kontemporari dan Masa Depan” (“Observing China from the Malay World”), the first international academic conference on China conducted in the Malay language in Malaysia. The workshop was officiated by Professor Noorsaadah Abd. Rahman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) of the University of Malaya, and featured 15 speakers from Malaysia, China, and Indonesia.



Opening speech by Prof. Noorsaadah, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation).

Professor Xu Liping, of the National Institute of International Strategy at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, presented the first paper entitled “Kesempatan Bagi Dunia Melayu Dengan Kebangkitan China” (The Rise of China and Opportunities for the Malay World). Professor Xu, a fluent speaker in Bahasa



Prof Xu Liping, Ms Shahadah, Mr Yerima and Mr Ahmad Muziru in Panel 1.

Malaysia, discussed in his paper the origins and processes of the rise of China, especially China's developmental experiences and model. Professor Xu opined that China's rise will also offer not just lessons but opportunities for developing countries, including Malaysia, to benefit from. He also spoke highly of the current positive state of Sino-Malaysia relations and wished that this state of relations can go on. Nur Shahadah binti Jamil, a PhD student at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, discussed in her paper (“Evolusi Proses Dasar Laut China Selatan China: Corak dan Manifestasi Pluralisasi” [Evolution of Policy Process towards the South China Sea: Features and Manifestation of Pluralization]) the internal structure of China's foreign policy, especially policy regarding the South China Sea. Yerima Lalisang, from Universitas Indonesia, presented a paper entitled “Citra Cina dalam Media Cetak Indonesia: Perspektif Orang Indonesia dalam Hubungan Indonesia-China” (China Image in Indonesia's Print Media: Indonesian Perspectives on Indonesia-China Relations). He found that the China image in Indonesia has improved but recently there are more critical opinions towards China. Ahmad Muziru Idham bin Adnan from the Islamic Renaissance Front presented a paper entitled “Strategi Perlindungan Nilai China dalam Hubungan Geoekonomi China-Timur Tengah Terhadap

Dominasi Orde Ekonomi Global” (China's Hedging Strategy in the Geoeconomic relations between China and Middle East, and Impact Upon the Global Economic Order).

Professor Tan Chee Beng of Sun Yat Sen University in Guangzhou, China, discussed in his paper (“Pemerhatian Beberapa Aspek Perkembangan Ekonomi dan Kebudayaan di China” [Some Observations on Various Aspects of China's Economy and Culture]) the importance of local economies, spurred by some innovative practices of local governments, in propelling China's economic development. Dr Ling Tek Soon of ICS presented a paper on China's anti-corruption campaign (Perkembangan Politik China Sejak Xi Jinping Berkuasa: Kempen Anti Korupsi” [Political Features since Xi Jinping Took Over: Anti-Corruption Campaign]). Ibrahim Suffian, from the Merdeka Centre for Opinion Research, presented findings from surveys about Malaysian perceptions towards China.



Prof Tan Chee Beng, Dr Ling Tek Soon and Mr Ibrahim Suffian in Panel 2.

Other than these political and international relations issues, many presenters also discussed the social, cultural, and religious aspects of China. Both Professor Haslina Ibrahim (International Islamic University Malaysia) and Ustaz Ann Wan Seng focused in their presentations Islam in China and the Chinese Muslim minorities. Dr. Roy Anthony Rogers (University of Malaya) discussed China's relations with the Muslim-majority countries Central Asia, while Dr. Abdullah Yusof (University of Malaya) discussed Chinese influence on the Islamic architecture in Melaka.

Finally, Profesor Awang Sariyan, formerly Director General of the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and now holder of Malay Studies Chair at Beijing Foreign Studies University, traced Sino-Malaysia cultural interactions in his paper (“Menelusur Sejarah Hubungan Tamadun Melayu -China dan Kerangka Tindakan Strategik untuk Peningkatan Kerjasama Kini dan Masa Muka” [In Search of the Historical Relationship between Malay and Chinese Civilizations, and Strategic Action Plans to Improve Cooperation at Present and Future]). Dr. Tee Boon Chuan of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman and Dr. Tuty Nur Mutia E.M. of Universitas Indonesia discussed in their papers the relevance of Confucianism in today's China. Dr. Charanjit Kaur (Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman) discussed the Sikh minorities in Chinese society. ♦



Prof. Awang Sariyan, holder of Malay Studies Chair, Beijing Foreign Studies University, China.



A section of the audience during the workshop.

International Workshop: “Economic and Financial Cooperation between China and Malaysia”



Opening Ceremony during the International Workshop.

The International Workshop on “Economic and Financial Cooperation between China and Malaysia” held in Nanning, China, on 10 and 11 September 2016, was the first academic institutional collaboration between the Center for Malaysian Studies, China-ASEAN Research Institute (CARI), Guangxi University and the University of Malaya. More than 10 scholars from China and Malaysia participated and presented papers in this workshop. Dr Ngeow Chow Bing, the Deputy Director of the Institute of China Studies led a delegation of Malaysian scholars including Professor Cheong Chee Keong, Vice President of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Dr Li Ran and Dr Zhang Miao (Institute of China Studies), Professor Goh Kim Leng, Professor Cheong Kee Cheok, Dr. Wan Marhaini binti Wan Ahmad, and Dr Chan Sok Gee (University of Malaya) to participate in this conference. ♦



Dr Ngeow Chow Bing, Deputy Director of ICS presenting a token of appreciation to Dr Mao Wei, Director of CARI.



Delegation from University of Malaya with all the speakers in China-ASEAN Research Institute (CARI), Guangxi University, China

ICS Public Lecture: “What Will China be Like in 2030?”



Institute of China Studies had the honour of inviting Professor Martin Jacques, the author of acclaimed book *When China Rules the World* to present a public lecture at ICS on 7 November 2016. Prof. Jacques is at present affiliated with the Department of Politics and International Studies, Cambridge University, the Department of International Relations, Tsinghua University, and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. According to Professor Jacques, China has confounded the doubters and critics and succeeded, quite remarkably, in meeting projections which were seen as overly optimistic. In 2014, according to the IMF, it became the world's largest economy measured by ppp. But what of the future? Professor Jacques discussed how China has to shift the basic paradigm of its economy if it is to avoid getting stuck, and how under Xi Jinping, its ambition is not just to be an economic power but also a political, cultural and military power. If it is successful in these objectives then by 2030 the world will look very different and China will have become the world's predominant power. ♦



Section of audience during the public lecture.



Prof Lee Poh Ping chairing the public lecture.

The Civilizational Fault-lines Underlying China's Belt and Road Initiative

By Peter T.C. Chang



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With marauding horsemen, the Mongols conquered and reigned over the then largest land-based sovereignty, namely, the Yuan Dynasty, stretching from the Sea of Japan to the eastern fringes of Europe. Approximately six centuries later, the British Royal Naval sailed the four seas to commander a world-wide maritime empire that never sleeps, so raved the English. Today, at the onset of the third millennium, we are witnessing the unfolding of a comparable epoch-making intercontinental dominion. Retracing the ancient silk trade routes, the PRC's Belt and Road (BR) initiative seeks to reopen the economic corridors and reenergize the commercialism that once drew principalities near and far to the Middle Kingdom. Beijing's endgame is to superstruct a pan-Asia sphere of common prosperity, stringing together the Yuan thoroughfares and British waterways all at once, this time deploying bullet trains and super tankers. If actualized, the BR initiative will become an integrated economic zone unprecedented in scale, with the potential to positively impact a third of the world's population, dwarfing the often compared to Marshall Plan.

This grand vision may be seen as the magnification and internationalization of Xi Jinping's China Dream into the Asian Dream. To be sure this is as much a dispensation of Chinese soft power as it is a projection of geopolitical sway, to restore China's regional if not global preeminence. For some, the markings of a modern metamorphosis of the ancient China tributary system are unmistakable, as Beijing reclaims the suzerain role, commanding deference and allegiance from the peripheral vassal states. Clearly this

geopolitical reconfiguration is not going unchallenged, not least by the incumbent superpower, America. The Obama Administration's Pivot to Asia, centered on the soon to be debunked TPPA (Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement), was the US containment strategy. And as the state of affairs in the South China Sea remains volatile, this rebalancing of power could take on a military dimension.

Not unexpectedly, a more assertive China is also causing discomfit among the Asian member states. Adhering to the longstanding strategic policy of neutrality, Singapore for example, is finding it increasingly difficult to stay above the fray. In the case of next door neighbour Myanmar, a proposed highway traversing the full length of the country, granting Yunnan province direct access to the Bay of Bengal has stirred apprehensions over issues of national security and sovereignty.

If unchecked, these concerns can prove to be detrimental to Beijing's aspiration to engineer a pan Asia commonwealth. Sure, Chinese leadership is vital but will this exact an unduly cost on self-governance? Could the suzerain-vassal relationship become so lopsided as to compromise the latter's autonomy? Now, these fears also extend into the cultural domain. Will a resurgent China, like the West, seek to impose its values and norms upon the rest of the world?

Lucian Pye, the American sinologist, once mused that modern China is a civilization pretending to be a state. Among others, Pye's perceptivity draws attention to the distinct ethnic cultural underpinnings of the Chinese world order, namely, Han Confucianism. Indeed, as one of what the German philosopher, Karl Jasper, called the Axial Age traditions, the

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China's Belt and Road Initiative



Confucians conceive themselves as champions of the Ways of Heaven, espousing principles that are universal, efficacious for all humankind. The present day Confucius Institute project can be taken as contemporary China cultural outreach to the world at large. Critics however, especially those in the West, desecrated these state sponsored institutions as Trojan horses propagating illiberal Chinese ideologies.

Disconcerted with the perceived misconstrue of its motive, Beijing has reiterated its commitment to a peaceful rise and pursuit of a harmonious co-existence of all peoples and cultures. These idealistic reassurances notwithstanding, situations on the ground remain complex and precarious. As it is, the BR initiative not only covers a vast geography but crisscrosses fragile civilizational terrains, laden with ethnic and cultural pitfalls. Along the Western frontier, the historical silk road, once beset by maundering bandits, is today vexed by brewing Islamic militancy. Then at the opposite end along the eastern shores, deep seated animosities between the Chinese and their Japanese and Vietnamese neighbors have often times fomented fervid expression of ethnic nationalism.

Though conferred with strong diplomatic ties, the Sino-Malaysia alliance is not immune from these predicaments. At the outset, China's engagement with Malaysia, a predominantly Malay and Islamic country, calls for, at best, cross-cultural and interreligious acumen. Now this task is in fact complicated by the presence of a sizable Chinese minority whose relationship with the Malay majority has at times become mired in antipathy. An edgy co-existence that can have bearing, one way or another, upon the Beijing and Kuala Lumpur diplomatic relations. How the PRC choose to respond to the overseas Chinese affairs in general and the Malaysia episode in particular, remains a delicate matter of international diplomacy and politics. Any overreach on the part of Beijing could have transnational repercussions, straining bilateral ties and on the subject at hand, undermining the BR initiatives.

Indeed, diffused across continental and maritime Asia are civilizational fault-lines that could unravel China's ambitious vision of common prosperity. That said, economic is not an utter subject of ethno-cultural vicissitudes. In some instances, the former can transcend and

influence the latter, and Malaysia may be a case in point. If administered judiciously, the current inflow of China's capital can generate economic uplifts that could ameliorate the fragile communal fabric in Malaysia. Needless to say, the converse is also true. China's mercantilism, if ruthlessly pursued, could aggravate the already intricate Chinese Malay race relations.

To recap, primarily an economic master plan, China's flagship BR initiative is also infused with geopolitical significance and civilizational ramifications. Though not beyond the bounds, Xi Jinping's dream is an audacious one, with much at stake for both China and the rest of Asia. If successful, this grand vision could herald in a golden era of prosperity and harmony, across Asia and beyond. Any missteps however could have transnational fallout far exceeding mere economics, with reverberations rippling across the geopolitical and civilizational landscape, not excluding Malaysia. ♦

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This article is the personal opinion of the writer.



It is with a heavy heart that we, the family of scholars at the Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya, wish to inform our associates and friends of the passing way on 21st November 2016, of our beloved Professor Lee Poh Ping. Below are some tributes from Prof. Lee's friends and colleagues.

By all measures, Prof Lee Poh Ping was a towering figure. His six-foot plus frame stood head and shoulder above most of us, but it was his intellect and pioneering work in the study of international relations and Japanese Studies which distinguish him as a pillar of intellect and integrity. He was one of a select handful that earned a well-deserved place in Malaysia's academic pantheon.

I first came to "know" of this gentle and kind academic while I was researching the history of the Anglo-Chinese School (ACS) Ipoh in the late 1980s and found his name listed as one of the school's distinguished alumni. (He taught at ACS) Little did I know that we would cross paths more than a decade later at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). I was but a tutor, and he had joined the university's Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS) following his retirement from University of Malaya. Like a typical Asian, I kept my distance from the great man. After all, it is most "un-Asian" to walk up to a senior professor for a casual conversation. This was where Prof Lee shone the most. It was as if he was possessed by a missionary zeal to reach out to and guide young academics. Those of us who had the privilege of being mentored by him were definitely the better for it. A unique - but sadly increasingly rare - breed of Malaysian, his mentoring embrace transcended race and religion. I recall fondly and with immense gratitude of his "Robin Hood-esque" streak. Unbeknownst to me, Prof Lee had stealthily supported my Japan Foundation Fellowship application for my doctoral dissertation fieldwork in Japan. This is "classic" Lee Poh Ping - always seeking to reach out and help others.

Looking back, I also remember the "dictatorial" manner in which he recruited me into the Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies (MAJAS) which he founded and ably led for a good many years. Knowing how "generous" a tutor's salary at UKM was, he passed the instruction through Dr Nasrudin Md Akhir, a MAJAS Exco Member, that I was expected to attend the MAJAS AGM and that my life membership of a few hundred ringgit had been subscribed by him. I was incredibly honoured to serve with him in later years on the MAJAS Executive Committee.

Prof Lee's passing made me pause and think of the hundreds of lives he has touched from his ACS days to UM and UKM, not to mention the Malaysian Staff Defence College and the other institutions he was affiliated to. As my mind frantically tried to string together sentences to pay respects to my teacher and mentor at the wake service in December, it dawned on me that Dr Hoo Chiew Ping was also among those present to honour Prof Lee. I had the privilege of teaching Chiew Ping at UKM, and between me and Chiew Ping, Prof Lee had coached, guided and mentored two generations of academics.

In the age of Facebook and KPIs, one might find teaching thankless and increasingly challenging, but to me it remains one of the noblest professions, and one on which rests the foundations of society. Prof Lee was not only a teacher (he was a great one!), but he helped nurtured generations of teachers and academics. If we had a system that awarded a "bonus point" for every student he has taught, that count would be in the millions now. Such is the legacy that he has bequeathed to us, in addition to his countless books, articles and commentaries which are still widely read and referred to today. His contributions will continue to inspire countless generations after us. No doubt, there will be prominent professors that follow in his footsteps, as there would be noble persons, but it would be extremely rare to find another

individual who has all these attributes wrapped around a gentle and caring soul such as Prof Lee. The field of International Relations and Japanese Studies has lost a giant and a pioneer, and we will sorely miss this beacon of intellect and pillar of academic integrity and warm humanity.

"Harimau mati meninggalkan belang, manusia mati meninggalkan nama." Profesor Lee Poh Ping mewasiatkan khazanah ilmu yang tiada tandingan serta nama murni yang kekal dihormati.

Tang Siew Mun, Head, ASEAN Studies Centre, Senior Research Fellow ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Life Member, Malaysian Japanese Studies Association (MAJAS), Former Senior Lecturer, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

I had only known Poh Ping about four years, perhaps less. We met on two subsequent occasions. Yet he made a deep, indelible impression on me. He was kindness personified: supportive, generous, warm, appreciative and so, so encouraging. From the beginning it was almost as if I was in the presence of an old friend. By the time of our last meeting, just before he died, it felt as if he was indeed an old friend. A gentle man with an avuncular air, he was possessed of a shrewd and insightful intellect, someone who always had something interesting to say, albeit said with great modesty and humility. He was the antithesis of pomposity. And he had an impish sense of humour. I thought, when I bid him farewell in early November, that I would see him again soon and that our friendship, personal and intellectual, was set fair for a long time to come. Sadly I was wrong. Goodbye, Poh Ping. It was too soon, much too soon. I will miss you.

Martin Jacques, Senior Fellow, Department of Politics and International Studies, Cambridge University and Visiting Professor, Tsinghua University.

As an outstanding scholar on East Asia, particularly on Japan and China, I have received from him myriads of solid convictions and piercing suggestions on history issues. What always stays in my memory, as unforgettable words of his, is his repeated reference to a phrase of George Orwell: 'Who controls the past controls the future.'

H. E. Dr Makio Miyagawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia.

Lee Poh Ping....., never focused on his own achievements; his concern seemed to be with promoting his colleagues and the institutions where he worked. He was deeply interested in his own country - including in Malay history and diplomacy - but was especially determined to maintain the international horizons of the institutions where he worked, at the University of Malaya and University Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Anthony Milner, International Director, Asialink and Professor Emeritus at Australian National University.

I felt lost and overwhelmed when I heard of the saddening news of Professor Lee Poh Ping's passing on November 21, 2016, Monday morning. Malaysian academia lost an esteemed scholar on International Relations and Asian Studies; we lost a much-loved mentor and friend.

Like many Malaysian IR academics of my generation, I first knew of Prof Lee through his many writings on Asian international relations, particularly on Malaysia and Southeast Asia's external relations, as well as the big power politics in the Asia-Pacific region. His works were among the assigned readings during my undergraduate years. Professor Lee's writings, along with those of his contemporaries I have laid a firm foundation for future generations of Malaysian IR scholars to build on. Professor Lee made a unique contribution by presenting a blend of history, economic, and socio-political analyses in capturing the complexity of inter-state relations and regional affairs.

I finally had the chance to meet Prof Lee in person after I joined Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) as a tutor at its Strategic and Security Studies Unit in 1996. He was then still with the University of Malaya (UM)'s Faculty of Economics and

Administration, where he started to serve since 1974, first as a Lecturer and then Associate Professor (since 1982) and Professor (since 1992). I saw him in action on several seminars and conferences, some of which were organized by his long time friend Professor Zakaria, my superior and mentor at UKM. Professor Lee's presentations and remarks were always enlightening, inspiring, and often witty. After his retirement from UM, he joined UKM's Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS) as a Principal Fellow in 1999. Coincidentally I had just returned from my master's studies in Scotland. Professor Lee's presence at UKM provided more opportunities for me to interact with him, either over lunches or formal sessions. They were all fun and fruitful learning experience. During his decade-long stint at IKMAS, Professor Lee authored and co-authored a number of invaluable scholarly works on Malaysia's Look East policy, Japan-Southeast Asia relations, ASEAN Community, East Asian regionalism, and related issues. Alongside his earlier writings on the subjects, these works significantly enriched the substance of East Asian Studies in Malaysia and set the standard for future researchers to follow. These were among the key research areas Professor Lee had continued to contribute after he returned to UM and joined the Institute of China Studies (ICS) in 2009. Whichever institute he was associated with, Professor Lee graced his organization with both intellectual imprint and professional network. He was instrumental in bringing many academic heavyweights from all over the world to UKM and UM, creating platforms for exchanging views while empowering younger scholars to pursue academic excellence.



At the personal level, Professor Lee had always cared for his junior colleagues' career progress. I lost count how many useful advices he had given me for my research and PhD options. But I still remember – and will forever be thankful – his suggestion of rephrasing the title of my very first international journal publication: “Multilateralism in China's ASEAN Policy” (Contemporary Southeast Asia, April 2005). The support and friendship continued after my PhD and postdoctoral journey. I am blessed to learn from him and other colleagues and teachers the true meaning of mentorship: caring, sharing, and empowerment.

Professor Lee's given names in Chinese – 寶平 (Poh Ping, or in Hanyu pinyin, Bao Ping) – aptly reflect the dynamic quality and character of his personality. “Bao” means treasure; “Ping” means calm and tranquil. Professor Lee had always been immensely valuable to the organizations and community he belonged to; and he had always been gentle, mild, and peaceful to those around him.

He is deeply missed. His work, character, and spirit lives on.

Kuik Cheng-Chwee, Associate Professor, Strategic Studies and International Relations Program Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

It is my pleasure to refer to the late Professor Dr. Lee Poh Ping as a mentor, colleague, and friend. Since the 1980s, the late Professor Lee's fascination with Japan is obvious. He began developing a network of international scholars interested in Japanese affairs and what is more important is that he began bringing in younger scholars into the network. We founded the Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies (MAJAS) together in 1998. The late Professor Lee as President and I as the Secretary-General since the founding of MAJAS in 1998 felt in 2014 that the time had come to nurture a new generation of locally trained Japanese scholars who can develop Japan Studies in Malaysia. As a President of MAJAS, the late Professor Lee was a practical person. He was not in favor of forming committees or rolling out red carpets to organize events or conferences. Between him and I and a fax machine and later email, we managed to attract renowned scholars like T.J Pempel, Susumu Yamakage, Akihiko Tanaka, Takashi Shiraishi, J.A.A Stockwin and Yoshihide Soeya, to name a few to participate and contribute in our conferences.

Md Nasrudin Md Akhir, Japan Studies Program, Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

There is no doubt that Prof. Lee Poh Ping has been instrumental in my career advancement since I joined UM more than 26 years ago. I am deeply saddened by his untimely demise. I used to have more time to spend with him over tea (he preferred tea over coffee). I missed his last birthday. I would usually take him for lunch or tea on some of his birthdays which is easy to remember, 1 April. But unfortunately, I did not get the opportunity to invite him for lunch or tea this year (2016). The last time I met Prof. Lee was after he chaired the talk by Martin Jacques less than two weeks ago (Monday, 7 Nov 2016). As I was leaving the auditorium of the IPS building for my office next door, I stopped to speak briefly with Prof. Lee and congratulated him for chairing the session. I told him that we must meet up soon for tea and I even said his house telephone number (2282xxxx) out loud. I wanted him to know that I could still remember his house phone number...a number that I used to call many years ago before the advent and popularity of mobile phones. I actually miss talking and having conversations with Prof. Lee using the then conventional land lines. I used to have more time to call him at home.

Khadijah Binti Md Khalid, International Institute of Public Policy & Management (inpuma), University of Malaya.

He was a kind and tactful gentleman, an inspiring teacher, and a brilliant scholar of modern Japan and China, particularly Northeast Asia-Southeast Asia relations.

Lowell Dittmer, Professor of Political Science, University of California -Berkeley and editor, Asian Survey.

Poh-ping, as I usually called this old friend and excellent scholar of East Asian studies, especially China and Japan, had never failed to impress anyone with his intelligent scrutiny and humane heart. In 30 years of close association, unforgettable were long and good arguments we had almost every day while I was with Universiti Malaya in the early 1980's from which I learned a lot about Malaysian Chinese, Malaysia, Southeast Asia, Asia and the global problems.

Yuji Suzuki, Emeritus Professor, Hosei University, Tokyo, Japan, and Deputy Director of National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan.

Prof Lee was a scholar and a gentleman, in all the senses of those words. His knowledge, mentoring and enthusiasm for his research, his colleagues and his discipline will be greatly missed.

Kevin Hewison, FASSA, Weldon E. Thornton Distinguished Professor of Asian Studies (Emeritus), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Contemporary Asia.

Poh Ping and I studied at Cornell University in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He was a kind of person who always cared about his long-time friends even though he may not have met them often. In the last email he sent me a year ago, he said “I decided to try reconnecting with old friends from my Cornell days” and kindly forwarded me a message for me from one of our mutual friends. His tall figure with a slightly stooped posture arguing passionately about Malaysian politics will be forever etched in my memory.

Professor Tsuyoshi Kato, Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University, Japan.

Prof. Lee Poh Ping was my mentor, and my friend. My research trip to KL always entailed pleasurable moments to immerse myself in extensive discussion with him.

Poh Ping would drive his blue Honda to the Lake Club or UM Staff's House in PJ. He always ordered black tea. Our meeting started from sizzling hot noon, continued to gently drizzling evening. His never-depleting curiosity let our topics drift away from East Asian international relations, Japanese peace constitution, life as a female academic to gossiping about our mutual friends. Piercing sharp questions were asked. Affirming nod and smile followed. This is how our co-authored paper was conceptualized, revised and refined.

Ayame Suzuki, Associate Professor, Doshisha University, Japan.

ICS Seminar “Domestic Business Stakeholder Hopes and Fears in the New Era of China-Malaysia Economic Ties ”

While capital flows from China has flooded Southeast Asia in recent years and created public buzz, Malaysia has emerged as a major destination for China overseas foreign direct investment. On 5 September 2016, using case studies in different sectors, Ms. Khor Yu Leng, an independent economist and business consultant in Malaysia, offered her insights from the domestic business perspectives, such as avenues for local participation in the supply of inputs, financing, and others. She also discussed the fears of local industry being crowded out. The seminar highlighted new phase of China-Malaysia economic ties and the Malaysian domestic businesses' hopes of being part of supply-chains into key OFDI and trade processing sectors. ♦



Ms Khor Yu Leng

ICS Seminar “Sino-U.S. Relations and Southeast Asia: An Evolving Narrative”

Dr. Syed Mahmud Ali is a renowned scholar on US-China relations and on 20 October 2016 he delivered a talk at ICS focusing on the evolving relationship between the United States and China. In this seminar, Professor Syed Mahmud Ali pointed out what he termed as the characteristics of Systemic Transitional Fluidity in the present era, with increasing uncertainties and fluidities regarding the systemic core of the international structure, and an unclear end-state. Transitional fluidity also breeds strategic uncertainty/anxiety and has made it more difficult for the US and China to work out a stable relationship and this is manifested in the increased frictions in many areas of the bilateral relationship. ♦



Dr. S. Mahmud Ali

ICS Roundtable with Datuk Supperamaniam Manickam

ICS staff had a closed-door roundtable with Datuk Supperamaniam Manickam, Malaysia's Former Ambassador to the World Trade Organization, on 27 September 2016. Datuk Manickam joined the Malaysian Administrative and Diplomatic Service in October 1970 and was posted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry as Assistant Director. He served in the same Ministry for thirty three years in various capacities including Director for International Trade, Malaysia's Senior Trade Commissioner to Hong Kong / People Republic of China, Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry, and finally Ambassador of Malaysia to the World Trade organisation in Geneva, Switzerland. During his tenure of service with the Government, Datuk Manickam was charged with the responsibilities and functions relating to the development of international trade policy as well as export promotional strategy. In this roundtable Datuk Supperamaniam shared with us his experiences and work regarding Malaysia's trade negotiations with China and other countries and his views of the present China's economic initiatives. ♦



Dr Ngeow presenting a token of appreciation to Datuk Supperamaniam Manickam.

Delegation from ASEAN Research Institute, Guizhou University, China

A delegation from the ASEAN Research Institute at Guizhou University, China, paid a visit to ICS on 2 September 2016. The delegation was led by the Dean of ASEAN Research Institute Professor Ren Jiangang and included two other academics of the ASEAN Research Institute, Professor Wang Yong and Ms. Liang Yao. The delegation discussed matters such as academic exchanges and collaboration with ICS. ♦



Delegation of Guizhou University with member of ICS.



Appointment of Dato' Abdul Majid bin Ahmad Khan as Adjunct Professor at the Institute of China Studies

ICS is proud to announce that Malaysia's Former Ambassador to China, Dato' Abdul Majid Bin Ahmad Khan, was appointed an Adjunct Professor on 6 October 2016. Dato' Majid is currently the President of Malaysia-China Friendship Association. As an alumnus of University of Malaya, Dato' Majid served distinguishably at Wisma Putra (Malaysian Foreign Ministry) for more than 30 years. He was appointed as Ambassador to China in 1998 and served until he retired in 2005. Since retirement, he has been actively engaged in public diplomacy between Malaysia and

China. Joining the ICS team, Dato Majid will bring along years of experience involving Malaysia-China relations and his own acute observations of China's developments. ♦



Tan Sri Professor Dr Amin Jalaluddin, Vice Chancellor, University of Malaya presenting the appointment letter to Dato' Majid.

Delegation from the Foreign Policy Advisory Group, China



Delegation of Foreign Policy Advisory Group.

On 14 October 2016, a delegation of the Foreign Policy Advisory group visited Malaysia and ICS. The Foreign Policy Advisory Group is a consultative expert body attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The delegation was led by Former Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Xu Dunxin, also including China's former Ambassador to Thailand Mr. Zhang Jiuhan and former Ambassador to Israel Mr. Chen Yonglong. The delegation exchanged many ideas with ICS academics regarding China-Southeast Asia relations, US-China relations, and regional stability and security. ♦

Delegation from the National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China



Delegation of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Professor. Dong Xiangrong, head of Department of Political Studies at the National Institute of International Strategy (NIIS) of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) led a delegation including Dr. Guo Jiguang, Dr. Jia Duqiang, Dr. Du Jifeng, all from the same institute, to visit Malaysia on 9 November 2016. The delegation visited ICS and discussed with ICS staff issues regarding China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative and Malaysia-China relations. ♦

Delegation from University of Macau, China

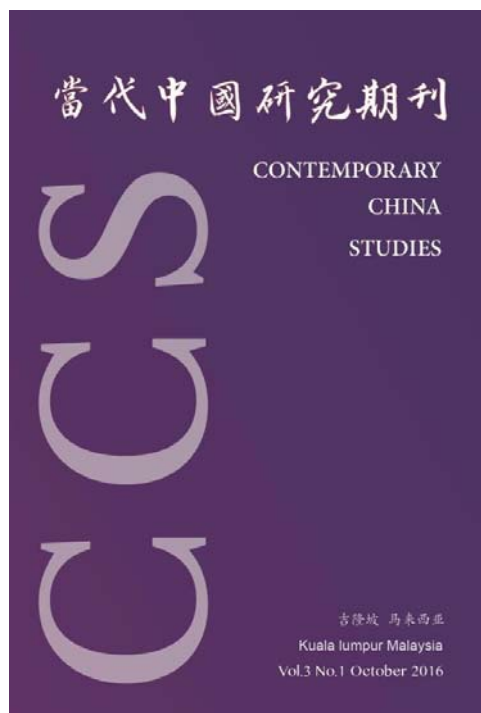


Delegation of University of Macau.

Delegation from the International Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party

A delegation from the International Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party visited ICS on 26 October 2016. The delegation was led by Ms. Dong Weihua, Deputy Director-General of the Research Office at the International Department and included four other researchers of the International Department. The delegation and ICS staff had a frank discussion on issues pertaining to Malaysian politics and Malaysia-China political relations. ♦

ICS received a delegation from University of Macau on 23 December 2016. The delegation included Professor Wang Jianwei, and Dr Lin Zhimin from Department of Government and Public Administration, Faculty of Social Science, University of Macau. The delegation exchanged ideas with Dr. Ling Tek Soon, Dr. Peter Chang Thiam Chai and Dr. Li Ran on existing domestic issues and political environment in Malaysia, and also China-US-Malaysia relations. ♦



CONTEMPORARY CHINA STUDIES

当代中国研究期刊

Vol.3 No.2 October 2016

The new issue of the Contemporary China Studies (Volume 3, Number 2) was published in December 2016. The issue features 5 research articles. Among the feature articles are:

- 天琴艺术的区域传承与跨国传播研究 / 黄尚茂、黄新宇
A Study on the Regional Heritage of the Art of Tian Qin and Its Transnational Dissemination / Huang Shangmao, Huang Xinyu
- “土地正义”视域下的广东乌坎及台湾大埔事件制度分析 / 陈琮渊、钟静文
Analysis of the Wukan and Dabu Incident from the Perspective 'Land Justice' / CHEN, Tsung-Yuan, ZHONG, Jing-Wen
- 中国大陆文革史研究四十年回望 / 王海光
Review of the 40 Years of Research on the History of the Cultural Revolution / Wang Haiguang
- 马中“两国双园”：中国——东盟战略合作框架下的标志性项目——兼论其发展优势和意义 / 叶汉伦
"Two Countries, Twin Parks" Initiative: Its Developmental Advantages and Significance / Yap Hon Lun
- 马来西亚砂拉越大埔与河婆客家话的混同关系 / 吴中杰
Fusion of the Dapu and Hepo Hakka Accents in Sarawak, Malaysia / Ai Chung-chieh Wu



International Journal of China Studies

Vol.7 No.3 December 2016

The new issue of the International Journal of China Studies (Volume 7, Number 3) was published in December 2016. The issue features 5 research articles, 1 research note and 1 book review. Among the feature articles are:

- *Li Ran and Cheong Kee Cheok, How Much "State" is in China's State Enterprises? - A Case Study of ZTE Corporation in an Era of Reform*
- *Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu, Enabling African Regional Infrastructure through the China-Africa Partnership: A Trans-Continental Appraisal*
- *Luong Dihn, Julia, China's Dilemma in the South China Sea and the Arbitration Tribunal—Implications on China's Regional Strategy in Southeast Asia*
- *Alex Payette, Factional Pull: Measuring the "Tuanpai Effect" on Elite Formation from 1992 to 2012*
- *Low Choo Chin, Banishment of Anti-Communist Chinese to Formosa: The British as Effectual Mediators in Malaya*



Professor Dr Danny Wong Tze Ken

- Prof Danny Wong presented a paper on "The Rise of China's Economy and Its Impact on Ethnic Chinese Business Community in Malaysia: The Case of Chery Automobile in Malaysia" in the International Conference on Chinese Capitalism, Asean Economic Community and Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia, organized by the Biodiversity And Indigenous Knowledge Study Center for Sustainable Development (BIRD), Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University, Thailand In Collaboration with Thailand Research Fund (TRF), on 10-11 September 2016.
- Prof Danny Wong presented a paper on "Curios and Novelties: Luxury Goods in Nguyen Southern Vietnam During the 17th and 18th Century" in the Twelfth International Conference on the History of Cultural Exchange: Material Civilization and the Life of Common People, organised by the History Department, Fu Jen University, Taipei, on 11-12 November 2016.



Dr Ngeow Chow Bing

- Dr. Ngeow made a presentation at the 5th Germany-Malaysia Security Dialogue, co-organized by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia and the Malaysia Office of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, at Majestic Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 19-20 September 2016.
- Dr. Ngeow presented a paper at the International Seminar on "The One Belt and One Road Initiative From a Global Perspective," organized by the National Institute of Global Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Beijing Foreign Studies University, in Beijing, China, from 10-11 October 2016.
- Dr. Ngeow presented a paper at the International Conference on "Sixty Year of Southeast Asian Studies in China: Review and Prospect," organized by the Research School for Southeast Asian Studies/School of International Relations, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China, on 5 November 2016.
- Dr. Ngeow presented a paper at the International Conference on "Sino-US Relations and the South China Sea Conflicts," organized by the Faculty of Social Science, University of Macao, Macao, from 9-10 November 2016.
- Dr. Ngeow presented a paper at the International Think-tank Forum on "Building the Community of Common Destiny between China and its Neighbors: Challenges and the Future," co-organized by the National Institute for Global Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), University of International Relations, Bureau of Scientific Research Management, CASS, and the National Institute of International Strategy (NIIS), CASS, in Beijing, China, from 18-19 November 2016.
- Dr. Ngeow presented a paper at the International Conference on "Comparative Chinese Studies: South Asia and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspectives," organized by the Asia Research Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, from 24-25 November 2016.
- Dr. Ngeow presented a paper at the International Workshop on "New Dynamics in the South China Sea Dispute," organized by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, on 28 November 2016.
- Dr. Ngeow presented a paper at the Academic International Conference on "Economic and Financial Cooperation: Hong Kong and the World under the Belt and Road Initiative," organized by the Central Policy Unit of the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong, from 15-16 December 2016.



Dr Fan Pik Shy

- Dr Fan presented a paper on "A Preliminary Study of the History, Architecture and Belief Activities of the Fu De Gong Temple at Beliong, Sarawak, Malaysia" at the International Conference: "The 4th Taiwan International Conferences on Hakka Studies", College of Hakka Studies, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan, on 9-12 September 2016.
- Dr Fan presented a paper on "The preservation and Inheritance of Hakka Dialect in Serdang, Malaysia" at the International Conference: "The 10th International Conferences on Chinese Sosoinguistics", Nanchang University, Jiangxi, China, on 4-8 November 2016.
- Dr Fan was the Coordinator of the "Program of Teaching Chinese Training", organized by the Beijing International Center for Chinese Language & ICS at Capital Normal University, Beijing, China, on 13-26 December 2016.



Dr Lee Kam Hing

- Dr Lee presented a paper on "New Terrains in Malaysian History" in a PCore-UM Conference: The Study of History: Its Relevance and Significance in University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur on 22 October 2016.



Dr Peter Chang Thiam Chai

- Dr Chang presented a paper on "Will China Sinicize and Confucianize the World? Case Study: Malaysia", in the International Seminar on East Asian Civilizations Exchange, organized by Nishan Forum on World Civilizations, on 9 – 12 November 2016.



Dr Ling Tek Soon

- Dr Ling presented a paper entitled "Stock market volatility and economic growth: Evidence from China and Malaysia" in an international conference of Economic and Financial Cooperation between China and Malaysia, organized by China-ASEAN Research Institute of Guangxi University, in Nanning, Guangxi, China, on 10 September 2016.
- Dr Ling presented a paper entitled "One Belt One Road: A Preliminary Study of Malay Communities' Cognition and Reaction" in the international conference: "One Belt One Road: Maritime Silk Road", organized by the Southern University College, Malaysia and Huaqiao University, China in Skudai, Johor, Malaysia, on 18 September 2016.
- Dr Ling presented a paper entitled "Mazu belief: A media of cultural communication in building the conception of 'One Belt One Road' " in the International Symposium on Mazu Culture, 2016, organized by the Mazu Culture Research Center of Putian University in Putian, Fujian Province, China, on 31 October 2016.
- Dr Ling was the panel commenter in a International Conference on Quemoy Studies, 2016", organized by Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman Malaysia, National Cheng Kung University Taiwan, and National Quemoy University Taiwan in Bandar Sungai Long, Selangor, Malaysia on 26 November 2016.
- Dr Ling presented a paper entitled "The Existence Value of Chinese Dialect Association in Today 's Malaysian Chinese Community" in the Workshop on the Study of the Chinese in Malaysia and Singapore: History, Politics and Culture, organized by Malaysia Chinese Research Center, University of Malaya and Center for Overseas Chinese Studies, Peking University, in Beijing, China, on 5 December 2016.
- Dr Ling was the panel moderator in the conference of China Financial Market Conference 2016, organized by Faculty of Business and Accountancy, University of Malaya, Malaysia and Sun Tzu Institute, Singapore in University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, on 15 December 2016.



Dr Li Ran

- Dr Li presented a paper entitled "The Bank of China: From A Turbulent Past to A Strategic Future – What Does its Presence in Malaysia Show?" in a conference on "The Economic and Financial Cooperation between China and Malaysia" organized by the China-ASEAN Research Institute, Guangxi University, China on 10-11 September 2016.
- Dr Li presented a paper entitled "The Status Analysis of China's OFDI in Malaysia" in a conference on "Think Tank Forum of Countries Along the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road" organized by the School of International Studies and Academy of Overseas Chinese Studies, Jinan University in Guangzhou, China on 17 November 2016.



Dr Zhang Miao

- Dr Zhang presented a paper on the "Malaysian Economy in Turbulent Times" in a conference on "The Economic and Financial Cooperation between China and Malaysia", organized by the China-ASEAN Research Institute of Guangxi University, China on 10-11 September 2016.

International Journal of China Studies	
Volume 6	Number 2 August 2012 ISSN 2156-5220
Editor's Foreword	
Special Issues on "Malaysia, China and the Asia Pacific in the 21st Century"	
Strategic and the Shaping of Malaysia's China Policy: 1977-2012	107
Lee Lim Seng	
ASEAN's China and Malaysia: Creative Diplomacy, Trade, and a	129
Complex Asia	
Chen at the State of the 21st Century: The Role of	140
Public Opinion in the Relationship with Japan	
Integration and Continuity	
General Officers' Resilience: Why Leadership Matters More than	159
Structure in the Security Environment of East Asia	
in Transition	
Global Maritime Asia: Indonesia, China, and a New Approach to	175
ASEAN's China Relations since Building of Strategic Partnership	
and China Development	
ASEAN's China Relations since Building of Strategic Partnership	187
and China Development	
Lin Jian and Yu Jie Hong Lin	
Book Reviews	
From Subordination to China: From the West to the Global Power	197
Ship of the 21st Century (2012)	
Reviewed by: Zhang Miao	

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