



ASIA-EUROPE INSTITUTE
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ASIA EUROPE INSTITUTE

Introduction

Asia-Europe Institute has successfully established itself as one of Southeast Asia's leading institutions for social science postgraduate research and teaching. Established under the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process with a philosophy of enhancing Asia-Europe relations, AEI aims to foster teaching and research with a view to develop better understanding of the cultures, histories, politics, institutions, economics, business and legal practices of both regions.



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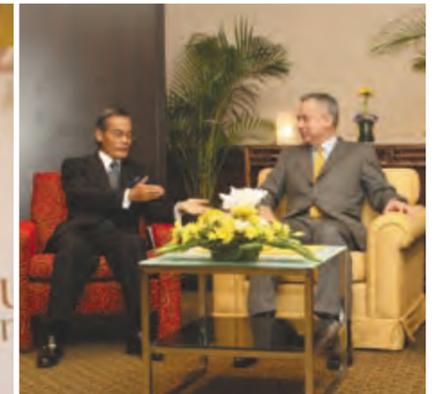
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW HORIZONS IN ISLAMIC AREA STUDIES: ISLAMIC SCHOLARSHIPS ACROSS CULTURES AND CONTINENTS, (22 - 24 November 2008)



AEI in collaboration with Islamic Area Studies Programme, National Institute of the Humanities (NIHU), Waseda University, Tokyo University, Sophia University, Toyo Bunko (Oriental Library) and Kyoto University from Japan organized an International Conference on New Horizons in Islamic Area Studies: Islamic Scholarships Across Cultures and Continents from 22 to 24 November 2008 at Hotel Nikko, Kuala Lumpur.

intellectuals in Islamic studies to meet, interact, exchange views and present the findings of their research.

The conference was launched by DTYM Tuanku Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah, Pro Chancellor University of Malaya and attended by honourable guests including the Japanese Ambassador to Malaysia, Vice-Chancellor University of Malaya, Board of Directors, Top Management of University of Malaya as well as academicians from local universities and Southeast Asia.

The objective of this conference was to create a forum that crosses cultures, countries and boundaries, allowing experts and

EU THROUGH THE EYES OF ASIA

International Research Methodology Workshop, Kuala Lumpur, 16 - 19 June 2009



Prof. Martin Holland, Director of National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury

This event was held at the Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 16 to 20 June 2009. The workshop was held at the Resource Centre of AEI, with the opening and closing ceremony at the AEI Auditorium. The event marked the beginning

of the research. Book publication of this research is targeted for January 2011.

The co-organisers of the European Studies in Asia (ESIA) network, namely, the Asia-Europe Foundation and the National Research on Europe, introduced "EU through the Eyes of Asia" (a scientific transnational study to measure the perceptions of the European Union in the Asian region) together with their partner institutions: Jawaharlal Nehru University from India, University of Macao, the Asia Europe Institute, University of Malaya. This methodology workshop attempted to scientifically measure the media, public and elite perceptions of the European Union in the Asian region.

The objectives of this event were to create awareness and add to the knowledge of the participants thus leading to an enhanced knowledge not only in the field of research and scholarships in Asia and Europe but more importantly to enrich our policy makers too. It also served to identify and investigate a wide range of perceptions and attitudes towards the EU in the three locations at both the elite (political, economic and cultural) and public opinion levels using survey methodology.

The methodology for this study had been rigorously tested and involved exploring images of the EU in the media as well as public opinion surveys and elite interviews about attitudes towards the EU in each country under observation.

The Co-organisers are Professor Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya; Associate Professor Dr. Hamidin Abd Hamid, Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya; Associate Professor Dr. Hajjah Jariah Mohd Jan, Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya; Professor Martin Holland, Director, National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury; and Mr. Ronan Lenihan, Project Officer Intellectual Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation.

The trainers involved in this workshop are Ms. Serena Kelly, Researcher, National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury, and Ms. Cher Lai, Researcher, National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury.

The researchers came from various Asian institutions such as from India, Africa and Macau. AEI's own researchers involved in this research were Professor Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar, Associate Professor Dr. Hamidin Abd Hamid, Associate Professor Dr. Hajjah Jariah Mohd Jan, Associate Professor Dr. Datin Hasmah Zainuddin, Dato Mat Amir Jaafar, Senior Research Fellow, Dr. Azmi Mat Akhir, Senior Research Fellow, Abdul Hameed Kayode Agboola and Yuslinda Mat Yassin.

AEI AMBASSADOR LECTURE SERIES

The "ASEAN Charter and Human Rights" by Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi



I have chosen to speak on the "ASEAN Charter and Human Rights", in my capacity as a former member of the ASEAN High Level Task Force (HLTF) on the drafting of the ASEAN Charter, and as current member of the High Level Panel (HLP) on the drafting of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ASEAN Human Rights body (AHRb).

To begin with, let me stress that the need to establish an ASEAN Charter is not an entirely new idea. It was a subject of long drawn discussions and debates at various levels within ASEAN. Some Member States felt that ASEAN could do without a Charter by continuing to function, as it had since its inception in 1967, as a principally policy-based regime where collective action was premised on consensus and voluntarism. However, others felt that ASEAN had reached a sufficient degree of maturity to transform itself into a rules-based regime, capable of organizationally meeting the challenges of political security, economic and socio-cultural integration.

As a historical record, let me reveal that the trigger point to establish an ASEAN Charter came in 2003 when ASEAN Senior Officials were discussing the Action Plan of the ASEAN Security Community under the Bali Concord 2 in Bali. A proposal was made then by Laos and

supported by Malaysia for ASEAN to have a Non-Aggression Treaty. As no consensus could be reached, an alternative proposal was considered and agreed upon to incorporate the principle of non-aggression into an ASEAN Charter.

The above development set the stage for ASEAN Senior Officials and Foreign Ministers to undertake a series of brainstorming and informal sessions to accelerate the process of working towards the establishment of an ASEAN Charter. Such sessions managed to overcome whatever remaining misgivings and reservations held by some Member States to enable a reference to the establishment of an ASEAN Charter to be included in the 2004 Vientiane Action Programme (VAP). Member States agreed to initiate preparatory activities to develop an ASEAN Charter as one of ASEAN'S strategies for the shaping and sharing of norms towards the attainment of an ASEAN Security Community.

AEI GLOBAL FORUM

The Presence of Islam in Mexico by Alberto Ruy Sanchez

Mr. Alberto Ruy-Sanchez, Award Winner - Xavier Villaurrutia Prize, Mexico and Prix Des Trois Continents, France, 29 October 2008



Alberto Ruy Sanchez, *The Presence of Islam in Mexico*

The influence of Arabic civilization has been intimately tied to Mexican culture during the last five hundred years. The arrival of the Spaniards in America during the sixteenth century took place in the context of a very strong Islamic presence in Spain. Thus the establishment of Spanish power in what is now Mexico, brought to our part of the world the constant influence of Arabic culture in the language, social conventions, applied arts and, of course, in literature.

A first visit to Morocco many years ago, was for me the initial personal approach to the Islamic forms imbricated in the ones we Mexicans are used to identifying as ours. Morocco provided me with much more than an interesting location for one of my most successful books, *Mogador*. Of course, I do not refer to a Northern European fascination towards an "exotic" country, described by Edward Said as Orientalism. After all, as a Mexican, I come from a civilization that has also been called exotic according to the same Northern clichés. What writing *Mogador* gave me was a new way of understanding the world and myself.

First came the shock of discovering an Arab world that, in spite of being geographically distant from Mexico, provoked in me a strong sense of recognition. A combination of body language, places and objects made me feel that I had ventured into another Mexico.

My first visit to a Moroccan marketplace showed me that many of

the marvelous arts and crafts that we consider an essential part of our Mexican identity, were almost identical to those I have seen in Africa. During a stay of more than two months, my wife Margarita and I discovered astonishing parallels among its beautiful objects, arid landscapes and labyrinthian minds. The surprise was reciprocated when some Moroccan friends told me that they had the same impression when arriving in Mexico: a thread of identification, a common vein, sometimes subterranean, sometimes evident, connects us.

As Mexicans our legacy derives from five centuries of mixing Indian and Spanish blood. But we must not forget that before this happened, for eight hundred years, two-thirds of what is now Spain and Portugal was Moorish: the fascinating Andalusí civilization, to a great extent originated in the Berber population that migrated from North Africa to Spain in two mass exoduses. Playing with historical terms, I would venture to say that we Mexicans also descend from Berbers. Perhaps some Mexicans should attribute their dark skin to a Moorish origin, rather than to indigenous heritage.

Christians, Jews and Arabs lived together in Spain, sometimes fighting, sometimes sharing that wonderful land. There were many small kingdoms like the "Reinos de Taifa" - state cities that survived by making alliances against common enemies sealed through marriage. The consequence was a deeply mestizo population whose real ethnic origins cannot be clearly traced.

When the Spaniards conquered America, they mixed with the indigenous people - the magnificent Aztec, Maya or Inca, among many others, because they themselves were the product of centuries of racial mixing, unlike the Protestant pilgrims who landed in North America advocating the preservation of a pure origin.

Celebrated nineteenth century Mexican poet Manuel Machado exclaimed: "I am like the men who came to my land. I am from the Moorish race, an old friend of the Sun. Men who won and lost it all. My soul is like the nard of the Arabic Spaniard."

There is now in the world a demand for equal treatment for so-called minorities. However, the call itself may lead to a new racism, if every struggling minority partakes with the settlers in a puritanical attitude towards identity.

It is therefore, more creative to think of ourselves as mestizo rather than as minorities. We need a new mentality that does not appeal to the racist anguish of making an epic defense of our roots. A mestizo is made of many affiliations, many ingredients in the eternal mystery: who am I?

VISITING PROFESSORS AT AEI

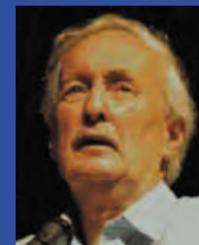
2007 - 2009



Prof. Emeritus Dr. Wilfrido V. Villacorta
De La Salle University,
Philippines



Prof. Dr. Samuel van den Bergh
University of Zuerich Winterthur,
Zurich,
Switzerland



Prof. Dr. Emeritus Nicholas Tarling
New Zealand Asia Institute,
The University of Auckland,
New Zealand



Assoc. Prof. Dr. G.T. Vinig
Universiteit van Amsterdam,
The Netherlands



Prof. Dr. Reimund Seidelmann
Institute of Political Science,
University of Giessen,
Germany



Prof. Dr. Alfredo C. Robles Jr.
De La Salle University,
Philippines



Prof. Dr. Christoph Schuck
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University of Dortmund,
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Prof. Dr. Manfred Pollanz
University of Applied Sciences,
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Prof. Dr. Antony Bryant
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Dr. Rene Jansen
Universiteit van Amsterdam,
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Dr. Graham Orange
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Mr. Ilya Devers
Universiteit van Amsterdam,
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Prof. Dr. Norberto M. Martinez
Universidad de León,
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Ms. Mega Irena
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Prof. Dr. Ian Fenwick
Sasin Business School,
Chulalongkorn University,
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Dr. Noel Morada
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Philippines



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University of Rome "La Sapienza",
Rome, Italy



Prof. Dr. Panayotis Tsakaloyannis
Athens University,
Greece



Prof. Dr. David Camroux
Institut d'Études Politiques (IEP),
Paris, France



Prof. Dr. Bernd Nothofer
University of Frankfurt,
Germany



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Steven Kim
Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies,
Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.



Dr. Eva Rossi
University of Rome "La Sapienza",
Rome, Italy



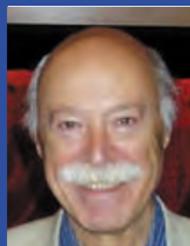
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Rome, Italy



Prof. Dr. Maria Grazia Melchionni
Faculty of Economy,
University of Rome "La Sapienza",
Rome, Italy



Dr. Giovanni Capannelli
Asian Development Bank,
Manila



Prof. Dr. Enrico Todisco
Faculty of Economics, Department of
Goeconomic and Historical Studies,
University of Rome "La Sapienza",
Rome, Italy

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS STUDENTS

2008/2009



For the 2008/2009 academic session which commenced on 8 September 2008, AEI had as many as 39 admissions for the International Masters Programmes.

The students comprised 17 Malaysians with the rest from the Asian countries of Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. There were also 6 students from Europe originating from Germany, Holland, Italy and Switzerland.

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS STUDENTS

2007/2008

The four (4) International Masters Programmes for the academic session 2007/2008 commenced on 10 September 2007. AEI received as many as 39 admissions for these programmes.

The students came from various countries in Asia and Europe. We received students from Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Italy, German, Myanmar, Pakistan, France, United States and Lao PDR. We also have as many as 16 students from Malaysia.



REGIONAL PEACE SECURITY-BUILDING CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

By Prof. Dr. Reimund Seidelmann, International Relations and Foreign Policy,
Giessen University, Germany



REGIONAL PEACE SECURITY – BUILDING AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT: THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

Professor Dr. Reimund Seidelmann from International Relations and Foreign Policy, Giessen University Germany was invited to present his paper in the Seminar Series that was held at AEI on 21 February 2008.

In his paper, Professor Dr. Reimund Seidelmann discusses the peace-building process in Europe from the end of World War II to modern times. This includes the role of European integration and finally EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the role of transatlantic cooperation through NATO, and the CSCE/OSCE process. The lecture defines the past and present military challenges to European peace in security and discusses the lessons from policies designed to create more peace-in-security at lower costs and lesser military risks. This includes a critical evaluation of European integration, détente policies, and today's peace-keeping by the European Union and its crisis intervention force.

DEMYSTIFYING KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

By Prof. Graham Orange Leeds Metropolitan University, United Kingdom



DEMYSTIFYING KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT TO MAKE THE JOB EASIER, NOT AN ADD-ON

Professor Graham Orange from Leeds Metropolitan University, United Kingdom was invited to present his paper in the Seminar Series that was held at AEI on 31 January 2008.

According to Professor Graham Orange, much hype surrounds knowledge management. Some of this is because there is no single definition of knowledge or of knowledge management. From a research perspective, this can be quite useful because the researcher can define knowledge and knowledge management within the context of the research. However, this ambiguity over knowledge management can also be exploited. Commercial organizations, for instance, can claim to sell knowledge management solutions when in fact they deliver products that are no more than information systems and/or document management systems. Graham Orange discusses knowledge with the aim of raising the listeners' awareness of issues surrounding knowledge management.

CULTURE IN EUROPE-BUILDING

By Prof. Dr. Maria Grazia Melchioni Faculty of Economy, University of Rome
"La Sapienza", Italy



CULTURE IN EUROPE-BUILDING

Professor Dr. Maria Grazia Melchioni, from the Faculty of Economics, University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy, was invited to present her paper in the Seminar Series that was held at AEI on 14 February 2008. Her expertise is in History and European Politics.

The discourse on "European culture" revolves around a dichotomy: on the one hand, the awareness of the fundamental unity of European society and civilisation; on the other hand, the concern for the differences between its constituent national identities. To cope with this contrast, the unity of European civilization and its common history, is seen to exist despite their differences. Also by virtue of Europe's multifarious roots, and the multiplicity of its traditions which had become a common heritage through the sedimentation of ages, this conception of European culture as *unitas multiplex* has become the basis of a recent European cultural policy.

CREATING VALUE BY IMPLEMENTING A BOARD-LEVEL RISK COMMITTEE

By Prof. Dr. Manfred Pollanz, University of Applied Sciences, Konstanz, Germany



CREATING VALUE BY IMPLEMENTING A BOARD-LEVEL RISK COMMITTEE – AN EVOLVING NEW ELEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE?

Professor Dr. Manfred Pollanz from the University of Applied Sciences, Konstanz, Germany, was invited to present his paper in the Seminar Series that was held at AEI on 21 February 2008.

In his paper, Professor Dr. Manfred Pollanz discusses the importance of enterprise risk management (ERM) in the corporate board room. The board of directors and its audit committee has a very important responsibility in understanding and accepting all levels of organizational risk. This seminar paper discusses possibilities to help board members to better understand COSO ERM and how it relates to other corporate governance requirements. The seminar will also introduce the board of directors risk committee as an evolving new element of corporate governance. An effective ERM program at this very senior board level of the organization is viewed to be essential for the successful achievement of corporate governance and its objectives.

THE FUTURE OF MULTILATERAL SECURITY COOPERATION IN NORTHEAST ASIA

By Prof. Steven Kim, Asia-Pacific Center (Security Studies)



THE FUTURE OF MULTILATERAL SECURITY COOPERATION IN NORTHEAST ASIA: SIX-PARTY TALKS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

Dr. Steven Kim from Asia-Pacific Center (Security Studies), Honolulu, was invited to present his paper in the Seminar Series that was held at AEI on 28 February 2008.

The current progress in the six-party talks aimed at resolving the North Korean nuclear issue has stimulated interest in the possible creation of a multilateral security mechanism in Northeast Asia. In fact, according to the 13 February 2007 agreement, the responsibility of one of the working groups is to study the feasibility of forming just such a mechanism in Northeast Asia. Are these expectations realistic? How can the talks contribute to the formation of a regional security mechanism? What are the long-term interests in the region that are conducive to the formation of a multilateral security mechanism? What are the lessons from the talks regarding how a multilateral security mechanism can resolve and manage inter-state conflict? Is there a rationale for an East Asian multilateral security mechanism? These are the questions that the paper by Prof. Steven Kim poses.

CREATIVITY AND DESIGN THINKING FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

By Mr. Ilya Devers, Director of Design Consultancy Firm



CREATIVITY AND DESIGN THINKING FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION: PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES

Mr. Ilya Devers, Director of Design Consultancy Firm Innberg, was invited to present his paper in the Seminar Series that was held at AEI on 13 March 2008.

In his paper, Mr. Ilya Devers talks about the importance of creativity and design thinking to encourage (social) innovation, and also the lack in business/office vocabulary to support knowledge workers pragmatically. As we move from a Service/Information economy into Experience/Knowledge economy, design thinking is becoming more important. "Design" can be defined as the "transformation of existing conditions into preferred ones". Design thinking is, then, always linked to an improved future. Unlike critical thinking, which is a process of analysis and is associated with the 'breaking down' of ideas, design thinking is a creative process based upon the 'building up' of ideas. As there are no judgments in design thinking, this eliminates the fear of failure and encourages maximum worker input and participation.

CITY MARKETING

By Prof. Dr. Norberto Muniz Martinez , University of Leon



CITY MARKETING: INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND NEW APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL POSITIONING

Professor Dr. Norberto Muniz Martinez from University of Leon was invited to present his paper in the Seminar Series that was held at AEI on 3 April 2008. Marketing strategy in the big cities in terms of international marketing trends and the new approach towards international positioning, forms the focus of this seminar.

Cities play a key role in globalisation and current socio-economic relations. In urban areas, various types of interchange networks come together: economic, social, cultural, communications, interpersonal and others. Cities shape their own interchanges between what they can offer and what constitutes the demands of citizens as well as those of investors, tourists and administrative bodies. Marketing emerged as a system of business thinking, intended to sell the products and services of commercial enterprises. It is also a tool which extended gradually to non profit and non government bodies, political institutions, sports associations etc. As it spreads to various countries and regions, cities especially are adopting new approaches towards selling and competing more effectively. Marketing provides a conceptual framework and tools for managing supply and demand. As a management philosophy, it creates awareness and is orientated towards the needs of citizens, tourists, and sources of investment, developing offers adapted to their needs by ensuring adequate promotion and communication. In the broader sense, it can also provide city councils, businesses, or states, with a conceptual framework which combines approaches such as town planning, sociology, environmental protection and culture, while identifying the competitive advantages of a city.

It can seek out creative ways of differentiating, creating values of tolerance, multicultural integration, balance with nature, and excellence in physical configuration and urban landscapes. Successful cities around the world tend to be moderate and balanced in size. They ensure economic development and quality of life, proactively integrate diverse populations and accept multiculturalism. The latter is seen as an asset that leads to cultural and artistic creativity as critical elements of social and economic progress. Such cities take into account the importance of town planning, urban design, and aesthetics where harmony with the natural surroundings is a major consideration. At the same time, cities are becoming products competing among themselves to create individualized brand identities reflective of their composite culture.



PLURAL SWITZERLAND

By Prof. Dr. h.c. Christian Giordano, University of Fribourg, Switzerland



PLURAL SWITZERLAND: SWITCHING IDENTITIES IN A MULTICULTURAL NATION

Professor Dr. H.C. Christian Giordano from University of Fribourg, Switzerland, was invited to present his paper in the Seminar Series that was held at AEI on 23 January 2009.

Though Switzerland has often been considered an exception in a global context, Professor H.C. Christian Giordano believes it definitely is not so. As with any other multicultural society, Switzerland is, in fact, not based on the social construction of a single, indivisible national identity. Therefore, this country does not comply with the model of the classic national states conceived as ethnically and culturally homogeneous political and territorial entities. The different cultural communities that make up plural Switzerland develop an allegiance to the Confederate State because the latter recognizes the cultural specificities of the country's different collective identities. In this connection, by observing the single identity constructions and strategies it can detect an interesting reality, i.e. switching identities. This indicates that affiliations are multiple and situational. In specific circumstances, each individual will stress his Swiss belonging, while in other circumstances he will tend to develop a cultural identity connected with the culturally close, bordering nations (Italy, France, Italy) thus creating different, yet complementary identity narratives.

PROVISIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) OF THE ASEAN HUMAN RIGHTS BODY

By Rosario G. Manalo, the Ateneo de Manila University, Manila



"H.E. Ambassador (retired) Rosario G. Manalo from the Ateneo de Manila University, Manila, the Philippines, in response to the invitation from the AEI-UM, delivered a seminar on the provisional Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ASEAN Human Rights Body, as stipulated in the ASEAN Charter, on 18 March 2009 at the AEI. The seminar was moderated by Dr. Azmi Mat Akhir, AEI's Senior Research Fellow (ASEAN Network) and attended by AEI's International Masters degree students and a number of AEI's visiting professors and academic staff members.

Ambassador Manalo, as the Philippines' sole representative, was actually en route for a meeting of the High-Level Panel on the Establishment of ASEAN Human Rights Body, to finalise the TOR on the ASEAN Human Rights Body to be held in Kuala Lumpur on the following two days. The purpose of the seminar was to inform students and staff members of the AEI on the draft of the TOR, as well as the progress on the establishment of an ASEAN Human Rights Body which was agreed to by the Leaders of ASEAN at their 11th Summit held in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur.

The issue on Human Rights had been of great concern to the ASEAN general public, especially the civil society organisations (CSOs) and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the ASEAN region. As such, it was both timely and opportune that Ambassador Manalo, could brief the students and academic staff members and especially the students doing their International Master in ASEAN Studies (IMAS) at AEI, on the issue.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Multilateral Agreement Between Parties

Memorandums of understanding are signed with the aim to exchange academic staff and students, to conduct research activities, to produce publications and academic reports as well as to conduct any activity which is of mutual benefit to the universities.

List of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):



University of Fribourg, Switzerland

On January 8 2009, a memorandum of understanding between University of Malaya and the University of Fribourg, Switzerland was held in ASEM room, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya.



University of Frankfurt, Germany

A memorandum of understanding between University of Malaya and Johann Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany was held on 5 February 2008. It was held in the auditorium of Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya



University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan

A memorandum of understanding between University of Malaya and the University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan was held on 16 May 2008 at Dewan TunKu Canselor, University of Malaya. The memorandum of understanding was jointly signed by Professor Eddin Arafeh, President of University of Jordan and the ex- Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya. It was witnessed by Raja Azlan Shah, the Chancellor of University of Malaya; Raja Nazrin, the Pro-Chancellor of University of Malaya and his wife; as well as Queen Rania from Jordan.

BRIEFING OF AEI TO THE AMBASSADOR AND HEAD OF DELEGATION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



H.E. Vincent Piket, Ambassador and Head of Delegation to the European Commission in Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya.

The meeting was held On 20th February 2009 and attended by AEI management, AEI council and also representatives from Corporate Relation and International unit such as **Prof. Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar, Prof. Madya Dr. Jariah Mohd Jan, Dato' Mat Amir Jaafar, Dr. Azmi Mat Akhir, Mr. Khusairi, Prof. Dr. Faisal Hj. Ali, Ms. Josephine, Mr. Ronan Lenihan, Ms. Azmawaty Mohamad Nor and Ms. Hanadiah Supa'at.**

The purpose of the meeting was to present the report on the development in AEI to H.E Vincent Piket, as the new Head of Delegation to the European Commission.

Discussion Topics

AEI also adduces the understanding especially in various cultural aspects (multiculturalism) as extremely important to ensure the peace and harmony in Malaysia. Therefore, AEI suggested that the European Commission should focus more on research in Social Science and Humanities to determine the cultural aspects and the understanding of European lifestyle of particular interest or relevance to the Malaysian community.

AEI is the ideal institution to conduct the European Studies Pro-

gramme in University of Malaya as it already enjoys the collaboration of experts that have come mostly from European countries. AEI will also undertake to prepare a suitable curriculum for the programme with ideas and suggestions from its visiting professors.

AEI also agreed that the European Commission should continue activities that converge to promote the awareness of the European Union while the AEI provides the database to help in building partnerships. This would benefit the Masters and Ph.D programme students in AEI in accessing information from journals which could help them in their research studies.

AEI suggested that a meeting for collaboration be held in August or September with the European Commission in order to make European studies a reality. Collaboration in the development of programmes such as workshops, seminars and conferences will be needed in order to achieve a clearer and better understanding of the European Union.

AEI also raised the important matter of getting a seat in the coming ASEM meetings. H.E Vincent Piket assured that this will be brought to the attention of the ASEM headquarters. The meetings that will take place are the biennial ASEM Summit and the annual meeting of ASEM Education.

HISTORICAL NATIONAL ACCOUNTS OF PRE-INDEPENDENCE MALAYA



In the construction of colonial history, economic history is an area given little attention in Southeast Asia. In comparison with the USA and the industrial societies of Europe, there is a dearth of efforts in the compilation of the GDP estimates for the earlier years of the 20th century. These areas of epistemology are relevant and significant for their importance in gauging economic performance and economic welfare. Nevertheless, there is relatively little effort invested in the construction of such statistics in Southeast Asia.



1st National Day of Malaysia (31st August 1957)

AEI has embarked on a research programme to promote the advancement of the knowledge about the economic history of Southeast Asia, with a current emphasis on Peninsular Malaysia. This research project involves the creation of a database that is enabled through a laborious search of historical documents. It is envisaged that with the creation of such databases, understanding the long-term development of Southeast Asian economies - in this instance, the Malaysian economy - will be enhanced.

Leading the Hub

H.R.H. Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah, the Crown Prince of the State of Perak, and Pro-Chancellor of University of Malaya, Malaysia.

Research Members:

1. Mr. Gnasegarah Kandaiya
2. Professor Dr. Tan Eu Chye
3. Mr. Harbans Singh

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING AND COOPERATION IN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH (SINCERE)



The aim of SINCERE is to share information and knowledge and to establish bridges between three geographical areas as a start. Due to their historical affinity and relations, Europe, Latin America and South East Asia have been chosen to provoke renewed discussions on educational research agendas. There will be dialogues with practitioners and policy makers so as to make educational research relevant to the needs of the Knowledge Society.

Claudio Dondi, coordinator of the SINCERE action, stated that educational research in Europe is presenting a number of critical issues, which might jeopardize the effective transformation of Europe into "the most competitive Knowledge Society in the world". Notwithstanding the importance of independent critical research within modern democracies, some key problems that European research in E&T presents today can easily be identified:

- It is often out of touch with the changes and innovation processes taking place in education and training systems and it is insufficiently focused on the challenges that E&T systems are facing;

- It is often limited by national disciplinary and curricular logics and does not often adopt an integrated thematic approach;
- In several countries, and more in general at EU level, it tends not to be exposed to internationalization and to be confined to the "national traditional mainstreams".

In order to overcome the "parochialism" so often identified with educational research in Europe, the coordinator and the partners of the Consortium believe that a push towards internationalization could be the right "antidote" and this is why and how the SINCERE action was conceived.

Leading the HUB

Claudio Dondi

Research Members:

- MENON Network EEIG, Belgium
- TEKNILLINEN KORKEAKOULU, Finland
- BUDAPESTIMUSZAKI ES GAZDASAGTUDOMANYI EGYETEM, Hungary
- UNIVERSIDAD POLITECNICA DE VALENCIA, Spain
- RED DE EDUCACION CONTINUA DE EUROPA Y LATINO AMERICA, Columbia
- INSTITUTT PAULO FREIRE, Brazil
- ASIA-EUROPE INSTITUTE (AEI), UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA (UM), Malaysia

THE STUDY ON ETHNIC RELATIONS IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING: SHARING OF EXPERIENCES IN MANAGING STUDENTS OF VARIOUS CULTURES IN ASEAN COUNTRIES.

Duration of Research: 1 December 2007 - 30 November 2009

This research project is under the FRGS grant and funded by the Higher Education Ministry of Malaysia.

The thrust of this research seeks to understand the perception of the neighbouring countries of Malaysia in managing their citizens of various ethnic groups. This is significant to the strengthening of management measures which can be used as a model by other ASEAN, and non ASEAN countries as well.

Students from institutions of higher learning are associated with the modern and cosmopolitan identity of their countries. This research carried out on students of higher education institutions provides pertinent information in measuring the aspirations, problems and the level of integration in a country. Policies and programmes towards the strengthening of ethnic relations among students in every ASEAN country ought to be researched and shared and this is part of the objectives of this research.

The research also aims to evaluate the level of awareness and influence of the Malaysian dynamics on managing multi-diversity, from the perspective of other countries in the ASEAN countries. The level of commitment shown by the respective ASEAN countries in managing the students of various ethnic backgrounds especially at public institutions of higher learning, is an enabling factor towards the formulation of common policies and programmes for the harmony, unity and prosperity of an ASEAN Community.

The research, thus examines the policies, unity and national integration in ASEAN countries and tries to identify existing patterns of relationship between ethnic groups of students and their behaviour in the Institutions of Higher Learning in ASEAN. It sets out to measure the success of the formula used by Malaysia in managing the various cultures and their ethnic backgrounds from the perspective of ASEAN countries, with a view to preparing a common programme and policy that can improve inter-ethnic relationships and harmony in the campuses of ASEAN countries.

The study will conclude with a summary that reports on the status of unity among the countries in the ASEAN community. This study is therefore an invaluable precursor to the sharing of experiences and knowledge in managing the various ethnic groups from the perspective of ASEAN and Malaysia in particular, and may be of global significance for other multi-ethnic regions such as the European Union.

Project Leader

Professor Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar, the Executive Director of Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya.

Research Members:

1. Associate Professor Dr. Hajjah Jariah Mohd. Jan, Deputy Executive Director of Asia-Europe Institute;
2. Professor Dr. Mansor bin Mohd Noor, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; and
3. Dr. Sivamurugan Pandian, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia.



EU THROUGH THE EYES OF ASIA (ESiA)



Duration of Research: June 2009 – December 2010

The European Studies in Asia (ESiA) network was initiated to stimulate European studies in the Asian region by providing a reliable platform for exchange and co-operation between European studies academics both in Asia and Europe. As an all-inclusive network, ESiA embraces all academics, institutions and networks in the field of European studies in Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) countries. It endeavors to strengthen existing academic links in Asia as well as to facilitate the creation of new synergies within Asia, and also between Asia and Europe through networking meetings, academic collaborations and the use of online tools.

ESiA is co-organised by Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in partnership with the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE) and is guided by an ESiA Advisory Group of 15 prominent academics representing various European studies centres in Asia and Europe.

The "EU through the Eyes of Asia" is the pilot project of the ESiA network. The initial phase was launched in 2005 and undertaken over a period of two years in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Thailand (Phases I and II). In 2008, the project was expanded to include Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam (Phase III), with the latest expansion to include India, Macao and Malaysia (Phase IV).

Source: with permission from ASEF

This project is a transnational academic collaboration between the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE), University of Canterbury, hereafter referred to as co-organising partners, together with Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), University of Macao (UM) and the Asia Europe Institute (AEI), hereafter referred to a partner institution. It specifically aims to:

1. identify and investigate a wide range of perceptions and attitudes towards the EU in the three locations at both the elite (political,

economic and cultural) and public opinion levels using survey methodology,

2. make public policy recommendations for refining and enhancing of the EU perceptions and attitudes within these three Asian locations in the study,
3. disseminate the research findings to European and Asian public and private institutions, through publications, as well as seminar and debates, conferences, workshops held in Europe and in Asia for academics, policy makers, and media gate-keepers. (Synergies could be organised with related ASEF initiatives).

The project which started in June 2009 is expected to be completed by December 2010. The International Research Methodological Workshop programme and International Seminar co-organised by Asia-Europe Foundation, Asia Europe Institute and NCRE in Kuala Lumpur from 16-19 June 2009 with the title "EU through the Eyes of Asia: A Comparative Study of Public Elite and Media Perceptions of the EU in India, Macao, and Malaysia" marked the launch of the project.

Project Leader (Malaysia)

Professor Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar, the Executive Director of Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya.

Research Members:

1. Associate Professor Dr. Hajjah Jariah Mohd. Jan, Deputy Executive Director of Asia-Europe Institute;
2. Associate Professor Dr. Hamidin Abd. Hamid, Deputy Executive Director of Asia-Europe Institute;
3. Dr. Azmi Mat Akhir, Senior Research Fellow Asia-Europe Institute and Associate;
4. Professor Datin Dr. Hasmah Zanuddin, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Faculty Arts and Social Sciences, University Malaya.



PATTERNS OF COMPLEX NETWORKS IN BUSINESS: SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE GENDER BASED BUSINESS NETWORKS (BAGSoN)



Duration of Research: June 2009 – March 2011

Business leaders, firms and entrepreneurs are embedded in complex networks that play critical role in the business process. Most of the research on networks in business remains descriptive, qualitative in nature and does not address issues regarding emergence and dynamics of the network. The goal of the study is to find empirical patterns in business and gender social networks based on complex network theory, and understand the structure, emergence and growth, main variables and the relationship vis-à-vis the business process and its outcome. Particular attention will be given to social networks, gender based networks and business outcome that accommodate social responsibility. New insights from the study of complex networks, and in particular scale-free network topology in which hubs emerge by a process of preferential attachment provide an opportunity for empirical, quantitative analysis of business and gender social networks and their dynamics.

Project Leader

The research is headed by **Associate Professor Dr. Jariah Mohd. Jan**, Deputy Executive Director of Asia-Europe Institute

Research Members:

1. **Professor Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar**, the Executive Director of Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya
2. **Professor Dr T. Vinig**, Director of SPACE, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
3. **Ms Fauziah Taib**, Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT ON WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, AND WOMEN'S SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN MALAYSIA

In 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) had its first strategy to improve the level of reproductive health throughout the world and focused their attention to five key elements which include (WHO, 2004):

- improving antenatal, delivery, postpartum and newborn care
- providing high-quality services for family planning, including infertility services
- eliminating unsafe abortion
- combating sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, reproductive tract infections, cervical cancer and other gynecological morbidities
- promoting sexual health

Such strategy was based on the fundamental principle of human rights in order to identify the barriers that exist in improving the level of women's reproductive health, including gender inequality, the youth exposure on reproductive risks, poverty, and restricted access to health aid and services. Based on the same guiding principles, this research aims to gather comprehensive data on women's reproductive rights and sexual and reproductive health among women in Malaysia. This project is under the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) and funded by the Ministry of Women, Family and Development.

This study considers human rights and the empowerment of women as its priority area in order to examine the issues of women's sexual and reproductive health. In addressing such issues, the research follows the Reproductive Health Elements from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Kahehah in 1994, as its main framework.

The respondents of this research comprise of 4005 women; 2005 constitutes youth of 15 to 24 years old and 2000 adult respondents from 25 to 59 years old. The respondents were selected using the multiple-level sampling method according to the stratified percentages; urban area (63%) and rural area (37%), which covered nine states in Malaysia namely Kedah, Penang, Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Federal

Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan and Johor.

Data were gathered through personal interviews using structured questionnaire which encompasses women's sexual and reproductive health issues including pregnancy, family planning, HIV / AIDS, health services, domestic violence and reproductive rights. Additional data were gathered through qualitative study using the focused-discussion approach which involved 50 male respondents. The analysis of quantitative data involved a sample of 2005 youth and 2000 adult respondents.

The findings from the youth respondents indicated that respondents from the rural area still depend on their family and consult their mothers when it comes to discussing personal issues. Urban youth had more knowledge on sexual and reproductive health issues compared to those from the rural area (51% and 48% respectively); and the percentage of knowledge increases with their level of education. Majority of the youth respondents (85%) were not sure of their reproductive rights but felt that reproductive rights in the society belong to both men and women.

The results for the adult respondents indicated that 82% of them have a general idea of sexual and reproductive health issues and a significant difference on their knowledge on such matters depends on the respondents' background (those from the urban area knows more), the level of knowledge increases with their age, their level of education, and working status. The findings also reported that only very few of them seek medical advice. Majority of them reported that they have no time, and were shy and afraid to get insights on such matters. However, they believed that women have the right in several reproductive health issues such as, the right to have children (88%), the use of contraceptive measures (77%), and the right to deny having a sexual intercourse (67%).

The issue on women's sexual and reproductive health rights is influenced by many factors namely biology, socio-culture, socio-economy,

psychology, and religion. Thus, a better preparation is needed for everyone in order to improve the status of women in particular and to enhance the quality of life for the benefit of the society at large. The issues addressed in this research are deemed crucial when discussing about women's sexual and reproductive health and it can be used as a parameter for further research.

This project won Silver Medal Award at the recent International Exposition of Research and Invention of Institution of Higher Learning 2009 (PECIPTA 2009) which was held on 8-10 October 2009. It also won the Best of Cluster Award under the category of Social Sciences and Gold Medal Award for the same category in the University of Malaya Research and Innovation Exposition 2009 (UMEXPO 2009) held in 14-15 January 2009.

Project Leader

Associate Prof. Dr Hajjah Jariah Mohd Jan, Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya

Research Members

1. **Prof. Dr Sarinah Low Abdullah**, Health Research Development Centre, Faculty of Medicine, UM
2. **Associate Prof. Dr Rohani Jani**, Department of Applied Statistic, Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya
3. **Associate Prof. Dr Hajjah Halimah Awang**, Department of Politics and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Economics and Administration, UM
4. **Dr Wong Li Ping**, Health Research Development Centre, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya
5. **Professor Datuk Dr Roziah Omar** (Consultant), Executive Director, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya

THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA: INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: SOUTHEAST ASIAN CHAPTER

Duration of Research: 2008-2010

The research is focusing on the role of solidarity movements, governments and international organisations in the liberation struggle of South Africa. The main objectives of the research is aimed at acknowledging the contribution that the thousands upon thousands of people - through their membership in solidarity movements and other non-governmental organisations - as well as governments and international organisations made to the South African liberation struggle. The focus is on:

- (1) Solidarity movements in various countries, with an emphasis on:
 - a. initial involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle;
 - b. history of the organisations involved in the anti-apartheid struggle;

- c. liberation movement to which assistance was given; and
- d. nature of the involvement – boycott campaigns, financial assistance, etc.;
- (2) Government assistance to the liberation struggle, with an emphasis on:
 - a. initial involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle;
 - b. history of the government involved in the anti-apartheid struggle;
 - c. liberation movement to which assistance was given; and
 - d. nature of the involvement - financial assistance, supply of military hardware and training, support in international organizations (e.g. United Nations, Commonwealth, etc.), etc.; and/or

- (3) International organisations, with an emphasis on:
 - a. initial involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle;
 - b. history of the organisations involved in the anti-apartheid struggle; and
 - c. liberation movement to which assistance was given; and
 - d. nature of the involvement - financial, etc.;

The project is funded by South African Democracy Education Trust (SADET), South Africa

Researcher:

Associate Prof. Dr. Hamidin Abd Hamid,
Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya

JAPANESE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN BRITISH NORTH BORNEO

Duration of Research: March 2009 – March 2010

This study examines Japanese economic activities in British North Borneo Chartered Company (currently known as the state of Sabah, Malaysia) prior to World War II. Relating to Japanese economic involvement in British North Borneo, many studies have been conducted by Japanese and other foreign researchers. Among these are the studies by Shimomoto, Yutaka (1990) and Hara, Fujio (1990) which examined Japanese immigration into British North Borneo before World War II. Subsequently, studies by Sabihah Osman (1998), Sugimoto, Mieko (2000) provided an overall picture of Japanese economic activities for the period 1890-1941. Another study by Wong, Danny (2001) highlighted anti-Japanese activities by the Chinese community in the state for the period 1937-1941. In addition to Japanese

economic activities, Sabiha (1998), Sugimoto (2000) and Wong (2001) examined the reactions of BNCC against the rapid expansion of Japanese economic involvement in the state by utilizing British colonial documents.

The research "Japanese Economic Activities in British North Borneo before World War II" aims to

1. make a comprehensive study of Japanese economic activities in North Borneo before the outbreak of World War II,
2. utilize both Japanese and British source materials and documents which are located in Malaysia and Japan,
3. contribute to a better international environment,

4. maintain and develop harmonious foreign relationships with Japan, through deepening other nations' understanding of Japan,
5. promote better mutual understanding among nations, encouraging friendship and goodwill among the peoples of the world,
6. contribute to the world in culture and other fields through the efficient and comprehensive implementation of international cultural exchange activities.

Project Leader

Associate Prof. Dr. Hamidin Abd. Hamid
(Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya)

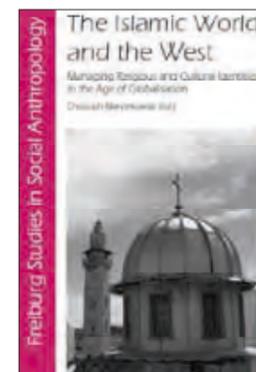
Research Member

Dr. Ichiro Sugimoto,
Soka University, Japan

THE ISLAMIC WORLD AND THE WEST

By Christoph Marcinkowski

Senior Research Fellow, Asia-Europe Institute (AEI), University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur



The Islamic World and the West
Freiburg Studies in Social Anthropology
Christoph Marcinkowski

Published by :

LIT & Asia-Europe Institute (AEI)
University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
Published in 2009

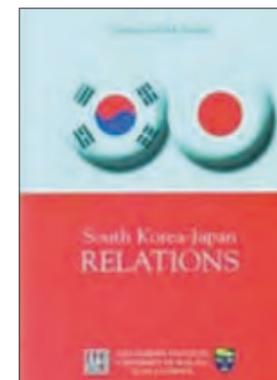
The Islamic World and the West - perhaps no other topic is currently so often present in the headlines of the international media. This timely volume, which brings together contributions by 14 established Muslim and Western scholars, intends to present a somewhat more positive outlook in the currently rather strained relations between the Islamic world and Europe by drawing on shared values and possibilities of cooperation in various fields, such as reflected in worldview, education, economics, multiculturalism, religious dialogue, politics, as well as security issues, and it shall also contain a historical reevaluation of some of those contacts.

It is the first project within the framework of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between Switzerland's University of Fribourg and the Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) in Kuala Lumpur's University of Malaya, Malaysia's oldest university. Dr. Christoph Marcinkowski, is an award-winning interdisciplinary scholar working on Islamic and Middle Eastern, as well as Southeast Asian and Security Studies. He is currently Principal Research Fellow and Chairman of the Publications Committee at the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS), a Malaysian think-tank and concurrently Adjunct Professor at AEI.

SOUTH KOREA-JAPAN RELATIONS

By Corrado G. M. Letta

Senior Research Fellow, Asia-Europe Institute (AEI), University of Malaya



South Korea-Japan Relations
Corrado G.M. Letta

Published by :

Asia-Europe Institute (AEI)
University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
Published in January 2007

Professor Dr. Letta joined the Asia-Europe Institute as Senior Research Fellow in October 2006. He has published his research work: South Korea-Japan Relations and Can Asians Think? Can Europeans Listen?

Prior to his appointment at AEI, Professor Letta was the strategic thinker at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for making an assessment on ASEM. The result was the research on ASEM'S Future prefaced by the Secretary General of ASEAN and the President of the European Commission. The 625-page study was published by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was translated into Japanese and Mandarin and widely distributed in China and Japan. The launch was sponsored by the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs through a series of international forums in Shanghai, Beijing, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Seoul.

The ultimate purpose of this book is a very

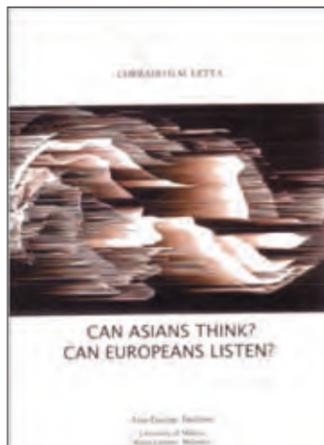
ambitious, but not an impossible one: to construct the roadmap for the launching of the South Korea-Japan bilateral relationship in the future. To achieve such an objective, a SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis will be carried out. Within this context, the past and present turbulence this relationship has been experiencing reveals to be in the long term, an asset disguised as a liability.

Given the fact that both countries have more similarities, common interests and shared values pulling them together than differences that can pull them apart, future bilateral relationships is not an impossibility. What lies in the way of its actualization is the lack of awareness and perception of the power of these similarities, common interests and shared values.

CAN ASIANS THINK? CAN EUROPEANS LISTEN?

By Corrado G. M. Letta

Senior Research Fellow, Asia-Europe Institute (AEI), University of Malaya



CAN ASIANS THINK? CAN EUROPEANS LISTEN?

Published by :
Asia-Europe Institute (AEI)
University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
 Published in June 2007

The Asian mind engages in critical thinking about Asia-Europe relations by analysing and developing possibilities, considering alternative thoughts, perspectives and all available information. Similarly, the creative side of their minds engages them simultaneously in reflecting, thinking, making and communicating connections. Critical and creative thinking are interrelated, and complementary aspects of the same thinking process are essential to them as dynamic partners of Asia-Europe Relations.

A European's ability to listen to Asians, engages her/him to comprehend as much as possible not just the facts or words, but the intent and emotional overtones as well. However, this process may be impaired when she/he starts talking to the other and does not necessarily listen. The sound of words reach

the eardrum, but much of the time the hearer, not fluent in Cross Cultural Communication, cannot translate it into an Asian message to be understood by the European brain. And Asia-Europe Relations is eventually negatively impacted by it.

Indeed, putting one's own European values, needs, and preferences aside for the moment has become impossible. Hence, reaching out to the Asian communicator partner by empathically sensing what he/she thinks, needs, feels, and perceives now, without judgment, cannot be achieved. Such processes are actually difficult to manage by both Asians and Europeans because they fail to think and listen beyond their cultural borders and across the vast Asia-Europe Relations landscape.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN ISLAMIC AREA STUDIES CONFERENCE "NEW HORIZONS IN ISLAMIC AREA STUDIES: ISLAMIC SCHOLARSHIP ACROSS CULTURES AND CONTINENTS", 22-23 November 2008.

State, Islam and Women in Contemporary Malaysia

Professor Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar

Assoc. Professor Dr. Jariah Mohd Jan

Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya

This paper examines the effects of modernity, globalisation and Islam on Malay women. The analysis looks at ways modernity and the role of state and Islam have defined Malay women and their identity.

In contemporary Malaysia, Malay women have more access to education, wage work, political rights and at the same time pursue the Islamic ideal of the good mother, ideal wife and efficient worker. The authors will illustrate that Islam is not regressive to women and the state agenda to bring change to Malay women have been successful in empowering Malaysian women.

The Voice of the Periphery: Islam, Ummah and Unity in East Africa

Associate Professor Dr. Hamidin Abd. Hamid, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya

The changing scenario of political Islam in the 1990s certainly had its own effect on global affairs. The eastern part of Africa was not an exception. The Muslims of East Africa with their close historical, cultural, economic, political and geographical ties with the Muslim ummah in the Gulf States and Indian Ocean littoral have also been witnessing the transformation of Islam and its discourse. The voices of the ummah in East Africa became more and more vocal in the second half of 1995 with more radical approaches adopted. Furthermore, the changes in the global political and security developments since 2001 have also strongly affected African countries especially those

with Muslim majorities, ushering in a new dimension in the debate on the ummah and unity. While the global situation affected Muslims everywhere, the discourse of African Muslims was dominated by internal issues. In Kenya for example, the debate on the provision of Shariah Law in its constitution sparked not only numerous academic debates but also protests in the street. The mortar attacks on the Israeli chartered flight in Mombasa demonstrate how international issues combined with internal disputes could be manipulated by extremist groups to undermine the unity of the ummah. This paper will try to re-examine the recent development in East Africa in the context of the discourse on the ummah and unity which is unfolding in the wider Muslim world.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS PRESENTED AT THE NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL WORK (SKIKS 2009) ORGANISED BY PUSAT BAHASA DAN PEMBANGUNAN INSAN UTEM IN COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUT SOSIAL MALAYSIA (ISM), 24-26 July 2009

Roziah Omar, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya

It is apparent that women's roles in Malaysia have gone through a tremendous change. The strategy to encourage the empowerment of women has been taken seriously by the government. There are various strategies and policies being implemented in education and many other policies that would enable Malaysian women to achieve a sophisticated standard of living as compared to women in other countries.

This paper focuses on the basic fundamental issue on women and all the challenges confronted in their daily lives as a wife and mother, as well as

an employee and a human capital for a developed country like Malaysia.

This paper establishes that women play a very significant role in order to create a harmonious and just community. Women are the moving force towards a stable family and their roles as a mother, wife and worker are perceived as the main vehicle to ensure unity. Therefore, efforts which are deemed crucial should be made to ascertain peace, safety and the empowerment of women.

This paper will also discuss how women in Malaysia, who have reaped the benefits of development, are able to continue contributing to the community.

ABSTRACT OF PAPER PRESENTED AT THE "FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ETHNIC RELATIONS 2008 (ICOER): ISSUES AND CHALLENGES", 15 – 16 October 2008.

Managing Ethnic Relations in ASEAN Universities

Professor Dr. Mansor Mohd Noor (Universiti Utara Malaysia)

Professor Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar (University of Malaya)

Associate Professor Dr. Jariah Mohd Jan (University of Malaya)

Dr. Sivamurugan Pandian (Universiti Sains Malaysia)

The post September 11 revealed a world of unipolar power to the extent that multilingual, culture and religion are screened in a black and white problematic manner. Ironically, the Malaysian and ASEAN experience in managing plurality can be a learning experience to the world. The harmony, stability and development enjoyed in this region can be an alternative guide to build a new civilization order. Based on this premise, a study was carried to determine 'How universities in ASEAN countries can learn each other in managing multiethnic students'. This regional research study covering 10 universities include University Chulalongkorn, Prince of Songkla University, University of Malaya, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti

Malaysia Sabah, Universiti Sains Malaysia, University of the Philippines, Mindanao State University, Universitas Indonesia and Universitas Usyiah Kuala, Aceh. The objective of this study is to evaluate common experiences among students of diverse cultures in ASEAN member countries. This includes ethnic/religious perspectives, practice, and policy among universities in ASEAN member countries. Early field findings reveal that the ethnic concept is understood differently by each of the ethnic groups selected in this study. They have demonstrated different level of sensitivities toward language, culture, religion and family values amongst themselves. The success of managing the different level of ethnic groups will determine the intensity and harmony of inter-ethnic relations in the universities. Therefore, this paper will address the methodology, measurement instrument and early findings from the pilot survey conducted by a group of researchers involved.

ABSTRACT OF PAPER PRESENTED AT THE "CONFERENCE ON THE HUMANITIES 2009", UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI PETRONAS, TRONOH PERAK, MALAYSIA, 18-19 February 2009.

The Humanities in ASEAN Studies and Higher Education - Teaching of ASEAN History in Higher Education

Professor Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar

Associate Professor Dr. Jariah Mohd Jan

Associate Professor Dr. Hamidin Abd Hamid

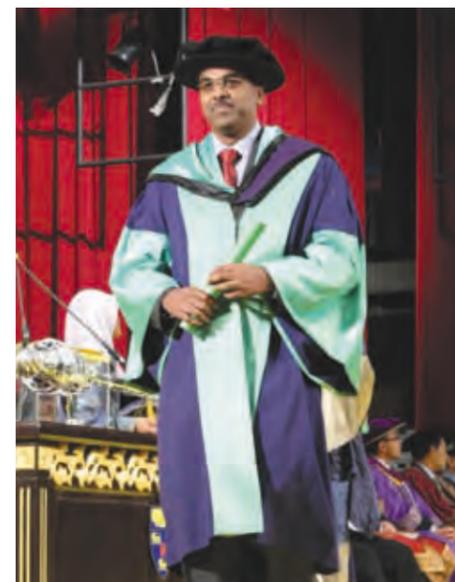
Dr. Azmi Mat Akhir

Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya

Teaching on ASEAN as an institution, a process and a region, and the holding of ASEAN Studies Programme at postgraduate level in universities and institutions of higher learning in the ASEAN region could help promote greater awareness of ASEAN – an issue that has been plaguing ASEAN as an association ever since its establishment over 41 years ago. A good awareness of ASEAN is a pre-requisite for inculcating a regional identity and solidarity towards achieving the ASEAN Community 2015. Realizing this, currently, several

universities in the region are attempting to offer courses and programmes on ASEAN as well as setting up research centres on ASEAN. Within its regional cooperation framework in higher education, ASEAN has established the ASEAN University Network (AUN) Programme aimed at strengthening networking and collaboration among the prime national universities of its Member Countries. The ASEAN Studies Programme was the first prioritized programme of the AUN, and the University of Malaya, through its Asia-Europe Institute (AEI), has undertaken the task of hosting the Programme on behalf of the AUN and ASEAN. The AUN has also decided that the ASEAN Studies Programme be offered at doctoral level by the AEI under the AUN mechanism, tentatively, starting at the end of 2009. This International PhD in ASEAN Studies may be offered as a joint degree between the University of Malaya and another participating university.

ABSTRACT OF PAPER PRESENTED AT THE "CHINA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESS" IN OCTOBER 2008.



Asokkumar K.S. Malakolunthu,

Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya

Globalisation, Interdependence, Backward Linkages and Technological Innovative Capabilities of Malaysia's E&E Suppliers and TNCs

This study is concerned with the technological innovative capabilities (competitiveness) of local suppliers in Malaysia's electrical and electronics industries. The technologically innovative capabilities of local suppliers are assumed to be influenced by the backward linkages provided by Malaysian subsidiaries of transnational corporations (TNCs). TNCs have played a key role in Malaysia's industrial development. Their long history started in the 1960s with export oriented and import substitution strategies taken by US, Japanese and European-based TNCs. In addition, increasing globalisation contributed to the creation of contemporary TNC subsidiaries in a high number of countries which has strong international production networks. TNCs play a crucial role in the globalisation process, with an increasing control over productive activities in many countries in the world. The E&E industry itself is highly fragmented, dispersed but concentrated in its modes of operation.

The broad research questions of the study deals with the variables which affect the breadth or diversity of backward linkages

between subsidiaries and local suppliers which determine the competitiveness of the firms. Factors explored include: 1) the corporate strategy of subsidiaries including outsourcing activities, 2) the technological capability level of local suppliers, 3) the technological development path of local suppliers, 4) inter-organisational linkages between local suppliers and subsidiaries, and 5) specific factors (e.g. nationality of ownership of subsidiaries), region of location, and, university and government linkages.

The competitiveness model will primarily focus on:

- 1) Economic Performance,
- 2) Government Efficiency,
- 3) Business Efficiency, and
- 4) Low Tech and High Tech Infrastructure.

Selected theoretical approaches are reviewed to explain the basis for evolution of the roles of TNC subsidiaries, and SMEs in developing countries. In order to analyse these two actors' interactions for technological-related activities, theories related to

backward linkages and technological innovation in developing countries are reviewed, as well as issues of national innovative systems (NIS), and environmental factors external to the two main actors with a primary focus on "Strengthening Institutional Support".

This study aspires to utilise an interview survey of 5 TNC subsidiaries and 20 local suppliers, mainly SMEs, in the Malaysian electric and electronics industry in South Johor to explore the factors influencing upgrading technological capabilities of local suppliers through the backward linkages. Snowballing technique of tracing supplier linkage would be employed. Face to face interviews with the representative of trade associations, chamber of commerce, industrial training institutes, state and federal government agencies and factory visits will be undertaken for all participating subsidiaries and suppliers in the state. The three analytical frameworks used included:

- 1) subsidiary typology,
- 2) supplier typology, and
- 3) the forms of backward linkages.

ABSTRACT OF PAPER PRESENTED IN "SINGAPORE ECONOMIC REVIEW CONFERENCE", August 6-8, 2009.



Ichiro Sugimoto - Faculty of Economics, Soka University, Tokyo

Eu Chye Tan - Faculty of Economics & Administration, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur

Government Fiscal Behaviour and Economic Growth of Singapore in the Twentieth Century

This paper reviews the long-term trends of government fiscal structure and explores for possible relationships between government fiscal behavior and economic growth in Singapore over the 20th century. It may be a reasonable conjecture that government fiscal behavior in particular vis-à-vis economic growth did witness a significant shift as Singapore switched from British colonial rule to self-government. The paper first traces out the characteristics of the colonial government fiscal behavior and compares them with those during the period of self-government in terms of budgetary process, sources and uses of revenue and budget deficit/surplus management. This is then followed by econometric exercises to ascertain whether the fiscal behavior did obey Wagner's law in 1900-39 and 1966-2000. Generally, attention is focused upon inter-temporal similarities and differences.

ABSTRACT OF PAPER PRESENTED IN FACULTY OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF TURIN, ITALY ON JULY 2008.



Tin Htoo Naing
Asia-Europe Institute,
University of Malaya

Patterns of Economic Growth under Different Policy Regimes in Asia and Europe: A Panoramic View of Malaysia and Italy, 1900-2007

This study aims to be a possible and plausible comparative study on the interconnectedness between policy-making and economic performance in Asia and Europe with its main focus on Malaysia and Italy. According to the IMF, Italy is the 7th world economic power, not because of its national resources, which are lacking, but because of its entrepreneurship and know-how to maximize human capital. Malaysia, a resource-rich country, is the 39th largest economy in the world and aspires to become a fully developed country by 2020. Therefore, the study intends to explore the economic development trajectories, the

main factors of economic growth, and the various economic policy regimes in the selected countries with different historical experiences, initial statuses and development levels. A sound understanding of the direct and indirect impacts of government policy-making on economic performance would help in crafting appropriate policies regarding institutional arrangements and creation of adequate infrastructure, which could benefit a large number of stakeholders.

"Analisi comparata delle politiche commerciali e dei loro effetti diretti e indiretti sullo sviluppo di due economie basate su Pmi 'export oriented' Malesia-Italia" at the University of Turin, Italy (2008).

INTERNATIONAL Ph.D PROGRAMME IN ASEAN STUDIES (IPPAS)

AEI-UM TO HOST A THREE-YEAR INTERNATIONAL Ph.D PROGRAMME IN ASEAN STUDIES (IPPAS) UNDER THE ASEAN UNIVERSITY NETWORK (AUN) PROCESS

by **Dr. Azmi Mat Akhir**
Senior Research Fellow (ASEAN Network) Asia-Europe Institute (AEI), University of Malaya



The Asia-Europe Institute (AEI), through the University of Malaya (UM) submitted a proposal to host an International Ph.D Programme in ASEAN Studies (IPPAS). This was done at the 22nd Meeting of the ASEAN University Network Board of Trustees (AUN-BOT) which was held from 1 to 2 November 2007 in Pattaya, Thailand. The IPPAS would serve to further enhance ASEAN regional cooperation in higher education at the doctoral level, in addition to the on-going programme on the International Masters in ASEAN Studies (IMAS) which the AEI is hosting on-behalf of the AUN. The 22nd AUN-BOT Meeting endorsed the proposal in principle and suggested the AEI-UM prepare a detailed proposal, taking into account the possibility of involving academicians and experts from other AUN Member Universities in the supervision of the programme, when implemented.

As a follow-up, the AEI organized and hosted the First Meeting on the International Ph.D Programme in ASEAN Studies from 10 to 11 April 2008 in Kuala Lumpur. The Meeting was declared open by the former Vice Chancellor of UM, Datuk Rafiah Salim, in her capacity as Malaysia's member of the AUN-BOT then, while the closed session of the Meeting

was chaired by Prof. Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar, Executive Director of the AEI. The Meeting was attended by 26 delegates and experts from 11 AUN Member Universities from six ASEAN Member Countries. The then Deputy Executive Director of the AUN Secretariat, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nantana Gajasen, also participated in the Meeting. The experts discussed in detail the conceptual framework of the IPPAS comprising the rationale, aims, research areas, programme and duration of study, supervision, financing of the programme, and admission requirements of the programme.

Based on the views and suggestions of the Meeting, the AEI then prepared a detailed conceptual framework of the IPPAS which was subsequently presented to and endorsed by the 23rd Meeting of the AUN-BOT held from 19 to 21 June 2008 in Hanoi.

The IPPAS is designed for students who have successfully completed any one of the International Masters programmes at AEI or any fields that are relevant at other national or international institutions, including the AUN Member Universities. It is offered to any candidate who has fulfilled the admission requirements as stipulated by the UM and/

or other terms and conditions as agreed to by the AUN-BOT.

The aims of the IPPAS are:

- to strengthen the students' research abilities within the areas of ASEAN studies and ultimately provide them with skills and ideas towards a better understanding of the region;
- to assist and enable students to achieve excellence in multidisciplinary research, postgraduate education and training to meet the growing demands of the worlds of academia, economics, politics, science and technology and the arts;
- to provide students with theories, methodologies, practice and applications in order to keep pace with current developments in research and have the opportunities to work in different ASEAN settings; and;
- to foster a stronger cooperation among universities in the region through networking, of expertise, joint researches, joint supervision, and the sharing of experiences and curricula.

Rationale and Justification

With regard to rationale and justification, the IPPAS is in tandem with the rapid development of a globalised world and the culture of seeking knowledge globally. The programme aims to provide a fulfilling and stimulating educational experience with a comprehensive range of research areas in social sciences and humanities in this part of the world that are rigorous, challenging, and innovative. Depth of knowledge is assured through the exploration of interdisciplinary approaches, exchange of ideas and development of research, while breadth is undertaken through the exploration of other kinds of knowledge in other related areas, which are also catered for.

The IPPAS is more than just an academic pursuit. It is designed to ensure that the fields of study remain relevant to the needs of today and that candidates in pursuit of their Ph.D are able to foresee the changes of societal and industry standards, trends and behavioral patterns; the very same qualities that make them brilliant and effective leaders. The proposed Ph.D programme is also a testimony to the efforts of regional leading universities, under the auspices of the AUN, to strengthen the cooperation and exchanges in tertiary education.



ASEAN is continually in need of new knowledge and data to formulate future strategies and plans of action for cooperation in the various political, security, economic, and socio-cultural sectors. Compared to the existing IMAS programme which AEI is hosting for the AUN, the IPPAS, by the higher level of research works involved, will be better structured to serve the above-mentioned purpose. In-depth researches conducted by students under the IPPAS can provide more and up-to-date information on the various areas of ASEAN's sectoral cooperation, including issues facing these areas, in order to plan and implement

future cooperative activities meaningfully. Therefore, it is justifiable for AUN to take its current IMAS programme one step further into the doctoral level. In short, the IPPAS will enhance and provide new knowledge about ASEAN that can serve policy guidelines and recommendations for ASEAN governments to pursue as well.

This International Ph.D in ASEAN Studies programme, when implemented, will contribute a great deal to ASEAN regional cooperation in higher education, in particular, and to ASEAN cooperation, in general. Implementing the programme under the AUN mechanism will certainly further enhance the existing collaboration among the AUN Member Universities. The AUN is promoting collaborative research among its Member Universities. The Ph.D researches and studies that will be implemented can help beef-up the activities under this collaborative effort. The researches to be conducted by IPPAS students could be subsumed under this "Collaborative Research" programme, or could be indirectly regarded as an activity for the programme. Being a formal research with good administration and management supervision, the research works under the IPPAS would certainly provide credible input for the AUN's Collaborative Network programme.

As with the case of the IMAS programme, the IPPAS also aims to attract non-ASEAN students who intend to pursue any research from an ASEAN perspective of the region and indirectly offer an opportunity to have a cross-cultural experience. The programme will enable graduates to pursue careers in their respective national governments or non-governmental organisations, research, academia, politics, and foreign affairs, which are involved in dealing with matters of ASEAN regional integration, particularly those in the political and security, economic and socio-cultural sectors.

While the AEI-UM will be the implementer of this proposed International Ph.D in ASEAN Studies, this programme envisages a joint effort and close collaboration between the Institute and other relevant faculties within the University of Malaya and, most importantly, with other AUN Member Universities as well as universities and institutions of higher learning in other countries and regions outside ASEAN which have expert

resources in ASEAN or Southeast Asian studies. In a way, either directly or indirectly, this will also enhance internationalization of higher education.

On the more general level, undoubtedly, this doctoral programme will contribute towards increasing the available pool of human resources in the area of social sciences and humanities, particularly in relation to the ASEAN region. While ASEAN, at this moment, may not be short of experts or qualified people in the field of ASEAN studies, it certainly needs more researches and studies to be done in the various socio-cultural sectors in order to provide a sufficient and concrete basis to formulate strategies and directions for regional cooperation in these sectors in the future. For instance, in the education sector itself ASEAN still needs much contribution from the region's educational institutions to chart a concrete strategy and direction for future regional cooperation.



General Description of the IPPAS

The philosophy of the IPPAS is concerned with developing a pool of experts and high quality researches. AEI aims to promote the culture of research and seeking knowledge among the ASEAN population. Within the scope of a three-year doctoral programme, opportunities will be taken to prepare students to operate at levels in government agencies and other organizations where innovation and creative decision-making are required so as to hold research and development roles.

The IPPAS shall focus on the political, economic, cultural and social sciences forces which shape the ASEAN region. It aims to develop excellent competencies in contemporary development of ASEAN politics, economics, cultures and societies and to provide comparisons between the ASEAN region and other macro-regions in the world order, especially Europe and East Asia.

The modality of study shall be by Coursework and Research which will be conducted by a combination of lectures and research, or by Research alone which will be conducted by full-time research, both leading to a thesis/dissertation. These two options are regarded as appropriate for a joint-programme mode given the fact that the prevailing rules and procedures of AUN Member Universities require either one or both modes of study. The second option applies only to candidates who already possess a good Masters degree in ASEAN Studies or Southeast Asian Studies and with a well-based knowledge in these areas.

For a coursework-research-based IPPAS, except where prior written approval has been obtained, the student shall conduct the research leading to a dissertation only after he or she has successfully completed all the prescribed lectures in the curriculum of the programme of study. As this will be a three-year Ph.D programme, the programme components may be allocated in the manner that a student shall do the coursework in the first year, fieldwork and data-gathering in the second year, and writing of dissertation in the third year.

The IPPAS shall prepare a student to do theoretical and empirical research, which would then be the basis for analytically-informed policy and action. For the coursework-research-based IPPAS, the decision on the number of credit units shall take into consideration each AUN Member University's rule on the number of academic units a student must complete in order to graduate with a Ph.D degree. Based on the prevailing rules of the majority of AUN Member Universities, the students will be required to complete the Ph.D degree with a minimum of 60 credit units (100%), including 24 (40%) credit units of coursework and 36 (60%) credit units of research and dissertation, within a period

of three (3) years.

The courses shall comprise of foundation courses, core courses, specialization courses, and cognates or cross-programme courses. Candidates will be required to sit for a comprehensive examination on the academic courses after completing all the required academic subjects and before the start of the dissertation.

Expecting a smooth preparatory stage, the IPPAS is intended to begin at the end of 2009, at the earliest. Primarily, the Ph.D degree



shall be conferred by the UM. However, in order that the IPPAS will truly be an initiative under the AUN, where appropriate, it can also be offered as a joint degree between UM and another interested AUN Member University, or one from where the student is registered. This mechanism or arrangement will provide a stake to all AUN Member Universities involved in this doctoral programme.

Tentatively, the research for the IPPAS shall be undertaken in the following areas of

Social Sciences and Humanities, and also in Area Studies, namely: ASEAN Studies*, Anthropology, Business Management, Entrepreneurship, Small and Medium Enterprises, Communication and New Media Studies, Information Management, Cultural Studies in Asia, Literature and Culture, Development Studies, Economics, Education, Languages and Linguistics, Environment, Sociology, Social Development, Gender and Women's Studies, Poverty and Equality, History, International Relations, Information Science and Technology, Law, Psychology, and Southeast Asian Studies**. (Note: * ASEAN Studies covers various areas pertaining to ASEAN as an institution and a process, while ** Southeast Asian Studies covers broader aspects of Southeast Asia as a region.)

For purpose of quality assurance of the IPPAS, a student shall be required to present a research proposal for approval by a panel before starting his/her research. Data gathering may be done in the student's own country or in any other ASEAN country or countries, or in a non-ASEAN Member country or countries.

Management of the Ph.D Programme

As the main implementer of the Ph.D Programme, the UM shall manage the IPPAS in accordance with its constitution. Nevertheless, since the Programme will be implemented as an ASEAN regional cooperation in education under the AUN mechanism or process, the AUN-BOT may want to set up a "Programme Council". This Council shall serve as an advisory board to assist the AEI-UM on policy matters related to academic and research works to be conducted, on financial matters which are external to UM, and on student welfare. The Council may comprise a representative each from all or only some AUN Member Universities. This matter shall also be discussed in detail at the next stage of this Preparatory Phase.

ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

European International Universities

In enhancing the existing ties between AEI and Asian as well as European countries, AEI has received several academic delegations from international universities.

These academic visits included delegates from Konstanz University, Germany, Prof. Dr. Helmut Weber; Head of the Department Asian Languages and Management, Professor Dr. Paulus Kindangan from Universitas Sam Ratulangi (USR), Indonesia; Emeritus Prof. Tsugitaka Sato from University of Tokyo; academicians from the Faculty of International Studies, Hiroshima City University and also the Institute of Islamic Studies, Waseda University; Professor Dr. Minoru Koide, Director of International Affairs Office, Soka University, Japan; Professor Dr. Izzud-din Omer Mousa from Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Saudi Arabia; H.E. George Savuica, President of Romanian Institute For European-Asian Studies, (IRSEA), Bucharest,

Romania; and Mr. Mikhail Popov, Director and Mrs. Elena Popova, Deputy Director of Russian Cultural Centre, Malaysia.

Further collaboration in academic programmes in order to expand and strengthen the Asian European networking through academic and research discussions, will be undertaken by AEI with these universities:

1. University of Leiden, Amsterdam
2. Schiller International University, Madrid, Spain
3. Facultadde Derecho, Universidad Aotnoma, Madrid, Spain
4. Lettres et Sciences Humain, Rouen University, Paris, France
5. Centre for Asia & The Pacific, CERI-Science PO, Paris, France
6. Urchtect University, Netherlands



ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

Asian International Universities



Visit to Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

Collaborative academic discussions between AEI and ASEAN countries have also been conducted. These included the following:

1. Academic Discussion and Research in Hanoi, Vietnam
2. Academic Discussion and Research in Manila, Filipina
3. Discussion with Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore
4. Visit to Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Singapore
5. Visit to Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Singapore
6. Visit to Secretariat ASEAN, Jakarta, Indonesia
7. Academic Discussion and Research in Indonesia

In order to strengthen its status, AEI believes that links with East Asia would result in providing ample opportunities for education and research. As such, AEI organised a visit to Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan from 26 to 30 Jun 2008, to prepare the groundwork for the international conference, Islamic Area Studies that was to be held between 22 and 24 November 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, as well as for collaboration in future research programmes. The delegates from AEI were Associate Professor Dr. Jariah Mohd. Jan, Deputy Executive Director and Ms. Irma Idliyana Ismail, Assistant Registrar.

Apart from that, AEI also collaborated in academic discussions with University of Columbia, New York, North America. It was also the objective of AEI to study the marketing and publicity practices of the university that can be adopted by the AEI.



Academic Discussion and Research in Manila, Filipina



Academic Discussion and Research in Hanoi, Vietnam

A COMPARISON BETWEEN INDONESIAN AND MALAYSIAN FEMALE LEADERS

by Aliyah Alimun, Indonesia



I have been a Ph.D. student at Asia Europe Institute since December 3, 2008. I have been conducting my research on "Women's Language in Parliamentary Debates: A Comparison between Indonesian and Malaysian Female Leaders" under the supervision of Associate Professor Dr. Jariah Mohd. Jan. It has been a great experience to be able to participate as a researcher in the Asia Europe Institute. Here I will share my experiences as a research student at AEI.

My research centres on language, gender and politics in Asia, specifically in Indonesia and Malaysia. It is a sociolinguistic study of women's language and political language used at parliament. The study involves the members of parliament from both countries and as such, this research is essentially a comparative study which covers several current issues of relevance and benefit to those interested in Asian Studies.

This study focuses on debates and discussions in Parliament, representation and participation of women in decision-making (which so far has been dominated by men); the ways and styles used by women to influence the other leaders and whether they use masculine styles or feminine linguistic features. Moreover, the study aspires to provide the evidence that women's voices are rarely heard by the

men in Parliament. In addition, this study will also gain insights into male and female leaders' perceptions about the involvement of women in Parliament. Do the men agree and support women's involvement in Parliament as decision-makers, or do the men disagree with the involvement of women in Parliament instead?

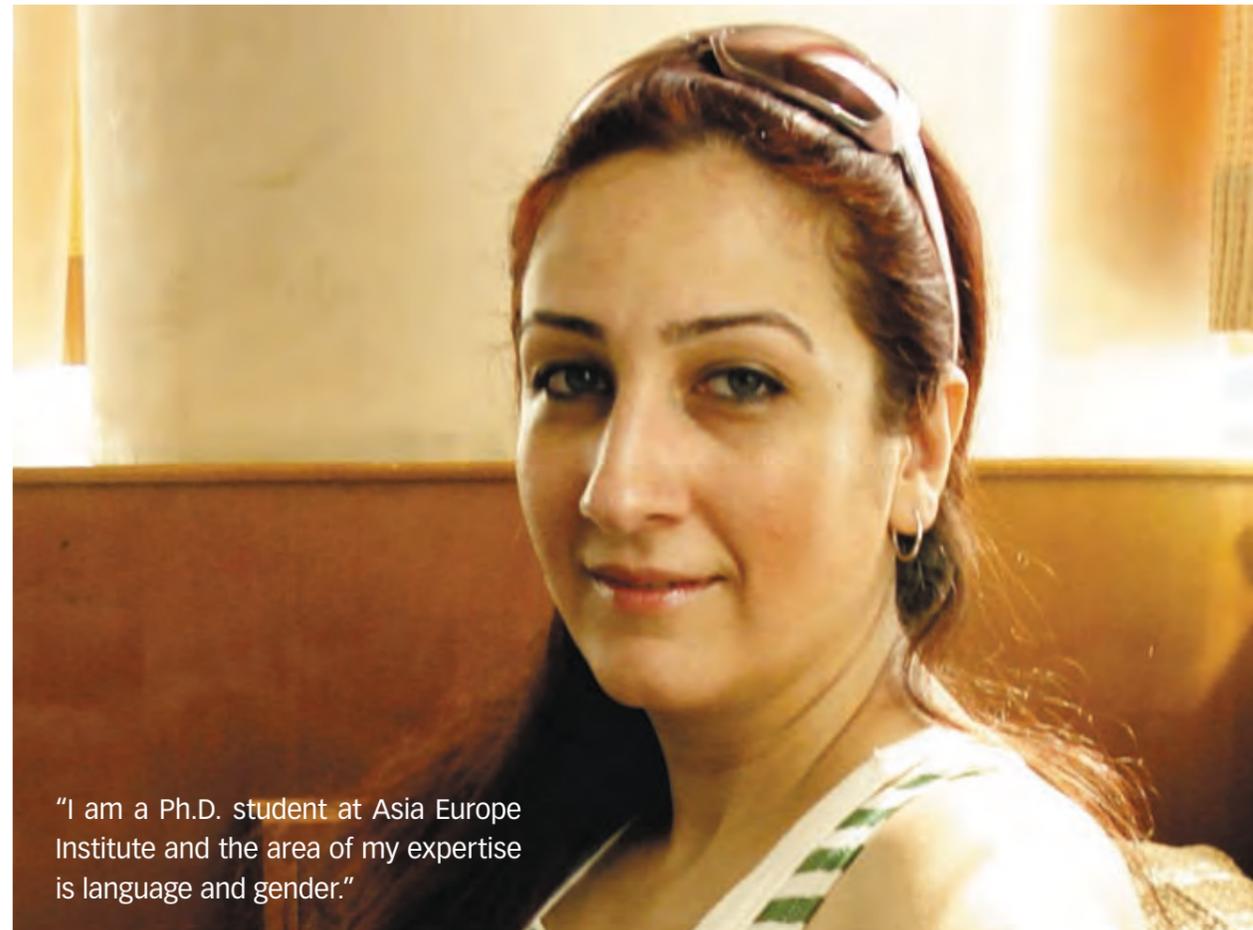
It is a known fact that women are too grossly under-represented at Parliament to be able to tackle issues that are important to women. Hence, this study addresses the extent to which women can be effective in Parliament. It looks at the impact women have when participating in parliamentary discussions, how the political agenda is developed, and the issues that are being raised through their involvement. In addition, it also outlines obstacles faced by women at the national

level, while being careful to distinguish between the particular political contexts faced by women at that level. This underscores the prevalent dominance of a patriarchal culture that affects women even at the highest levels in the Indonesian and Malaysian political system.

Society still views the involvement of women in politics as taboo and strange by Eastern standards. Hence, this study will contribute towards our knowledge on the mechanisms of language and politics, with special reference to gender and women in Asia. It would be worthwhile to make a comparative study on language and gender in this and other various contexts between Asia and Europe in the future.

A STUDY OF POWER AND SOLIDARITY IN MEN'S DISCOURSE

by Leila Mohajer, Iran



"I am a Ph.D. student at Asia Europe Institute and the area of my expertise is language and gender."

I am a Ph.D. student at Asia Europe Institute and the area of my expertise is language and gender. Language and gender is a subdivision of sociolinguistics and on this path I am honored to be supervised by Associate Professor Dr. Hajjah Jariah Mohd. Jan, whose insights have constantly made my research progress smoother. The AEI newsletter (the AEI Post) also provides a good opportunity for all the researchers to share their ideas and benefit from each others' work.

Gossip has always been considered a feminine talk and apparently has received less attention in males' domain so far. The present study attempts to come out of this dominant frame and look at gossip through another panorama which is the masculine aspect of gossip talk within language. This study looks at sociolinguistic features of talk among Iranian male interactants who have come from various walks of life.

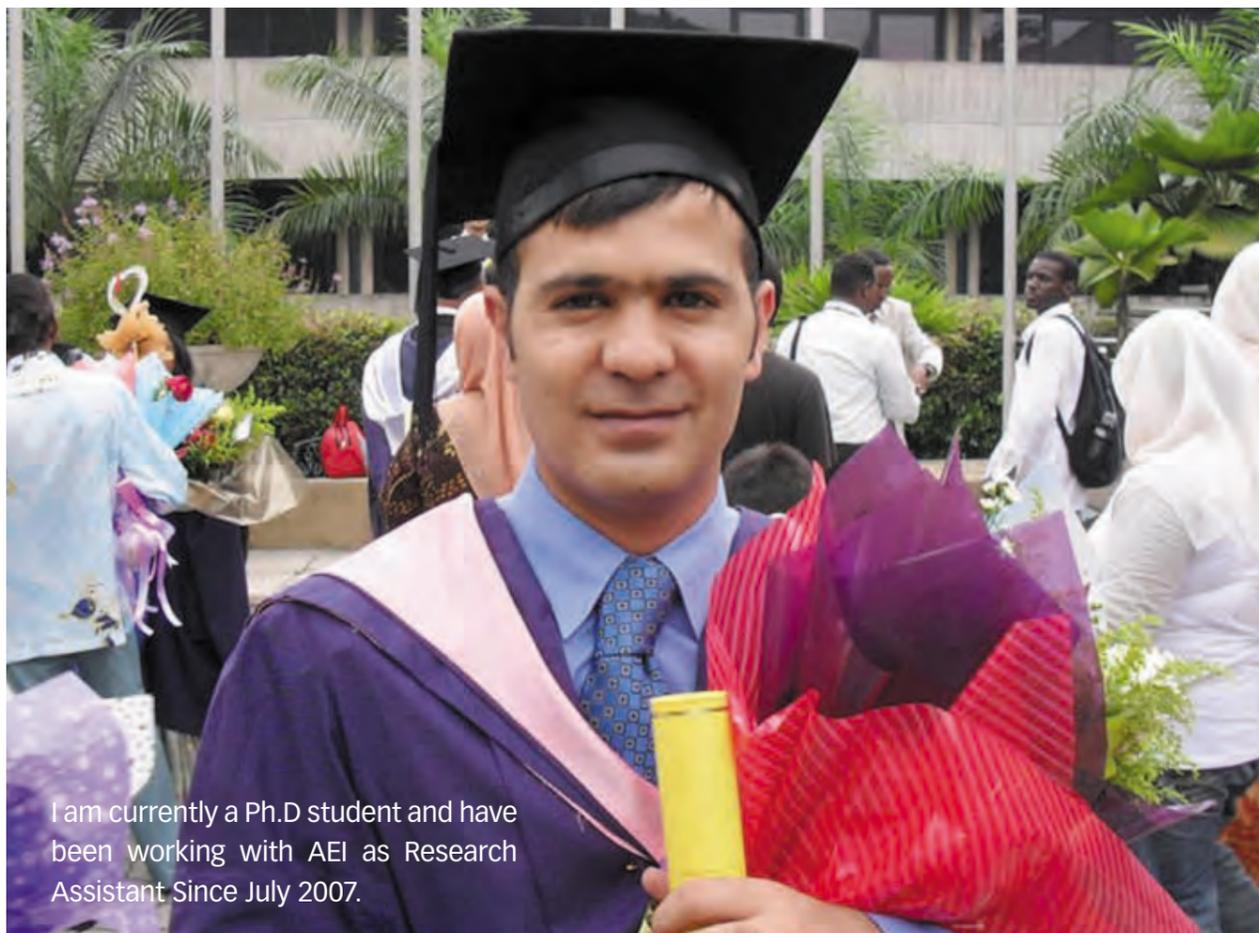
In this research, different aspects of male speech are analyzed in an informal setting, in order to come up with some more insights

about the way men talk and how they interact with each other in the absence of females. In addition, these features are ultimately considered to see how men bid for power and how they favour solidarity. As it is clear, power has always been associated with men and solidarity with women. This study, however, attempts to make it broader and examine the possibility of observing solidarity among men. It also tries to reason if any social aspects of life such as status, relationship etc. may have any impact on the participants' speech.

As mentioned earlier, the research mainly concerns Iranian men and the way they gossip. These are the Iranians who have lived in Iran or who were brought up and educated in Europe. As such, this study is very beneficial for AEI, as it covers both Asian and European domains. Moreover, it presents some helpful insights about the interactants' culture which might affect their speech and the way they use linguistic elements. On the whole, this research assists both males and females to enhance their understanding of their differences linguistically.

MUSLIM WOMEN AND NGOS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SISTERS-IN-ISLAM MALAYSIA AND AURAT FOUNDATION PAKISTAN

by Zaib Alamgir, Pakistan



I am currently a Ph.D student and have been working with AEI as Research Assistant Since July 2007.

I am currently a Ph.D student and have been working with AEI as Research Assistant Since July 2007. While staying at AEI, I found it a model of successful postgraduate institute bridging Asia and Europe in research, publication and innovation. The visiting professors and students from different parts of the world provide us a unique opportunity to interrelate with new cultures and to learn about the world and the people in it. I am blessed to be supervised by Prof. Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar, a well known scholar of Anthropology, Gender and Women Development. I am doing a comparative study of two Muslim women NGOs namely Sisters-in-Islam in Malaysia and Aurat Foundation in Pakistan. Advocacy on women rights and development has been a serious agenda on part of the Non-governmental Organizations. They have long been working on women issues and have become an integrated part of Women's Suffrage Movement and Women's Rights Movement. International

women organizations were witnessed over a hundred years ago to influence governmental policies on social justice. Subsequently, gender equality remains the top agenda. The most confronting issue to the women's organization in Muslim communities remains the religious and cultural priorities. Every religion gives equality to women, but what this equality means to different religion and society in terms of practice is a matter of concern. In addition, how each religion views gender equality to the other religion produces several dynamics of looking at gender equality. Is it possible to view gender equality in the west from eastern perspectives and in the east from western perspectives? These are the sort of questions my research answers. Subsequently, gender equality and modernity should not be viewed from western perspectives only, Muslim communities should create their own values of equality and modernity which is the challenging task at present.

MY KOREAN INTERNSHIP

by Nurul Syahida Ahmad Said, Malaysia

At first glance, the Republic of Korea (ROK) or South Korea appears to be a homogenous community familiar to Malaysia. Since the early 80's it has opened its doors to welcome foreigners to their land. It was under the administration of the former Prime Minister, Tun Dr.Mahathir, that the 'Look East Policy' was introduced with a view to adopt the successful work ethics of Japan and South Korea. Being the dynamic power of ASEAN plus 3(ASEAN+3), ROK has become important model for Malaysia's development. The opportunity to do an internship at the embassy of Malaysia in Seoul, ROK, was a valuable experience for me and my four other course-mates. We were able to explore the possibilities of theories that we had learned in the lecture hall and translate them into practice. We had the opportunity to understand ROK's importance and perception of ASEAN and Malaysia especially under the 'Look East Policy', and also came to understand the ROK as a close community.

In terms of food, ROK is very much a part of Asia; rice as well as noodles, can be easily found. Kimchi, which is a famous and traditional dish of fermented vegetables, is a must-try. Other than kimchi there is kimbab (similar to sushi),bibimbap (mixed rice), rice cake and many more varieties of food to choose from. You could also try cold noodles if you are looking for something different. Since a large number of Malaysian students are receiving technical education under the 'Look East Policy', it is not difficult at all to find halal food easily as well in Seoul.

Not many Koreans can speak English; even the youngsters in Seoul appear really shy to speak the language. Thus, learning some basic Korean proved helpful. 'Anyung hanseyo' means 'hello' while 'Thank you' is 'kamsahanida'. To introduce myself, I learnt to say 'Je irumun Nurul-imnida' (My name is Nurul).

In terms of culture, Koreans still uphold the Asian culture very highly. This is evident from the respect they show towards the older people

and the elderly, their strict adherence to the hierarchy system and their high work culture just like the Japanese.

The embassy carries out administrative work as one part of its function and their other function centres on embassy cum diplomatic activities. The administrative work involves assisting in managing daily reports, compiling reports needed by the Wisma Putra such as for the salary increment for the local residential staff (LRS), assisting in reorganising the embassy library and others.

The second part of the work is much closer to the life of a diplomat. The activities of the embassy include representations or attendance at events and functions on behalf of the embassy of Malaysia (in ROK). Examples of such events/functions are the PETRONAS reception dinner, the "Friendship Festival" at the Hi! Seoul Festival, a field trip with the Malaysian Young Diplomats group from IDFR (Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations), the soft launch of the ASEAN - ROK Centre, the MAWI Concert (KTO, Korean Tourism Organisation Ambassador) in Seoul ROK, 2008 National Theatre of Korea (NTOK) Cultural Partnership Initiatives (CPI), the 2008 ASEAN - Korea Meeting on Cultural Collaboration Projects, the Diplomatic Roundtable Talk at Yonsei University on Australia & ROK relations, the Queen's Birthday Celebration - Reception at United Kingdom Embassy, the dinner and presentation of Malaysian Homestay Association (MHA) of English and Culture. Attendance was also required at the reception and dinner held at the Ambassador's residence and the Agong's birthday was also celebrated at the Embassy with Malaysian Students. The internship provided an invaluable insight through the hands-on experience in understanding the diplomatic, political, economic and social roles played by the embassy in a foreign country. This up-close and personal exposure to the working environment of a diplomat/ ambassador in the embassy is to me, indeed a career option worth considering.



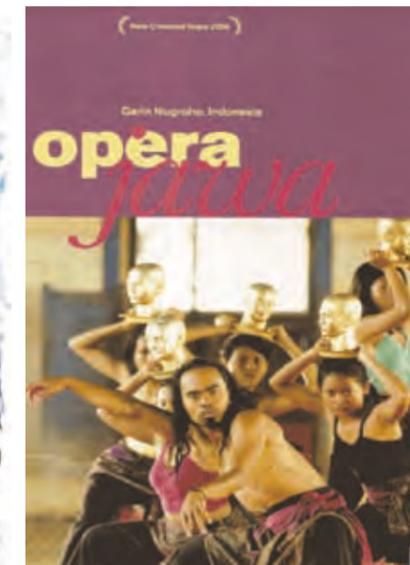
MY UK INTERNSHIP by Verena Seitz, Germany



"I have done my internship at LeedsMet University in the UK from May until July 2008. I was there as a research assistant and that was really lucky because it gave me the opportunity to do research about my own topic which I had chosen to be the topic of my final project paper for IMIM. Before going to LeedsMet I went to do some field research in Indonesia, I have looked into the situation of Indonesian domestic workers and their information needs. The topic of my research paper was "Information needs and strategies to support Indonesian

domestic workers in Malaysia". At LeedsMet I developed a theoretical framework for the paper with help of my supervisor and have done the theoretical research. The internship and close supervision at LeedsMet helped me significantly to develop my research. Back to Malaysia I have written the paper which I presented in the end at an international conference in the UK. I can only suggest that you take the opportunity to do something for your research paper which really matters to you and my research and time in Leeds was just perfect for me."

FILM WEEK



Indonesian Film Appreciation Week



Italian Film Festival

Film Week 2009

Asia-Europe Institute (AEI), University of Malaya precedes as an avenue to foster human development, cultural exchange and intellectual discourse. The institute has been able to attract embassies to host movies from across the globe to screen movies here at AEI to facilitate cultural exchange. This provides an avenue for intellectuals, ambassadors, distinguished guests, movie goers and students to rendezvous here at the AEI, Auditorium to view an exquisite mix of movies carefully selected by embassy representatives. Typically AEI in conjunction with these embassies provide light refreshments after screening. Movies are screened at 8.30pm in the evening

considering Solat Maghrib for the Muslims and after work traffic. Between mid last year to beginning of this year, the following were the movies screened at the Auditorium, AEI.

SWEDISH FILM FESTIVAL

Swedish Film Festival was held from 16 until 20 of February 2009. The films were screen in the auditorium of Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya. Five Swedish films that were screen during Swedish Film Festival are such as God Save the King, The Black Pimpernal, That Special Summer, You, The Living and Flakenberg Farewell.

FILM WEEK



Swedish Film Week

INDONESIAN FILM APPRECIATION WEEK

Indonesian Film Appreciation Week was held on 19, 21 and 23 of January 2009. Three of the famous films from Indonesia were chosen to be screened in Auditorium of Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya such as Denias, Senandung di atas Awan, Opera Jawa and Janji Joni.

GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL

Several German films were screened from 23 to 27 February 2008 at the AEI auditorium. The film festival was jointly organised by the AEI and the Goethe Institute, Kuala Lumpur, as a means to acquaint the public with the German culture.

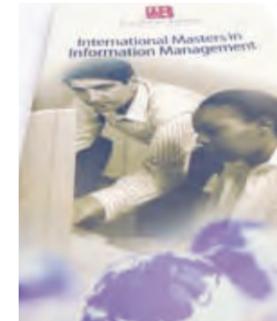


The AEI and the Goethe Institute, Kuala Lumpur organized yet another German Film Festival with films shown on 1, 3 and 5 December 2008. This cultural event has since 2007, become an annual event at the AEI.

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

With the support of the Italian Embassy, the AEI was able to screen several Italian films on 15, 17 and 19 December 2008. While the cooperation between the AEI and the embassy served to strengthen their ties, the screening of the films gave the local community an insight into the Italian culture and way of life.

MASTERS AND Ph.D PROGRAMMES AT AEI



International Masters in Information Management (IMIM)

Given the gaps in information and knowledge both within and between countries especially between Asia and Europe, this programme will promote local and global sharing of new information and communication technologies much needed in the 21st century. The impact of the New Economy on organizational structures, management, and development processes requires a strong grounding in economics of information and organizational systems that promote information sharing. This Postgraduate programme is designed to offer breadth of content, intellectual depth, and rigour complemented with attention to a wide range of applications and case studies. It will be of relevance to business managers as well as those concerned with organizational development, internet, and new media training, eCommerce, as well as research analysts and others. This full-time International Masters programme runs for 10 months, commencing in September.



International Masters in Regional Integration (IMRI)

This International Masters programme in Regional Integration examines the origins and consequences (for nation states as well as firms and citizens) of efforts and strategies to redraw boundaries of authority at the regional level in the context of intensified globalisation. Using an interdisciplinary and comparative approach, the programme focuses on explanations of the intensity and type of authority shift to regional institutions across issues and regions. It places particular emphasis on understanding the relationship between regional integration and processes of economic globalisation, the development of new forms of governance, and the reconfiguration of the state.



International Masters in Small-and-Medium Enterprises (IMSMEs)

This International Masters programme in Small-and-Medium Enterprises is designed for students who wish to enhance the development of entrepreneurial skills and managerial capacity in order to ensure the viability and continuity of SMEs over time. The focus of the programme is to provide an understanding of the strength of both Asian and European social and economic contexts in which SMEs operate, as well as the methodologies, technicalities and tools that allow a better structured decisional process and a more conscious management of the business. The intercultural setting of the programme will also enhance the ability of prospective managers and government executives to strengthen economic cooperation between Europe and Asia.



International Masters in ASEAN Studies (IMAS)

This International Masters programme in ASEAN Studies provides an advanced level of understanding of the political, economic, social, and cultural forces which shape ASEAN as well as the attendant policy process in a range of issue areas. It does so through consideration of aspects of ASEAN. (1) To offer an analysis of the historical, social and cultural forces that have shaped Southeast Asia as a macro-region in the world order. (2) To consider the contested nature of theoretical concepts – how the same basic categories are understood in partially different ways in competing theoretical approaches to regionalism and regionalisation, and how some concepts belong more to some theories than the other. (3) To assess the institutional arrangements, changing policy agenda and governance issue of ASEAN in the contemporary period. (4) To compare the key characteristics of ASEAN with analogous developments in regional associations elsewhere in the world.



Ph.D in Social Sciences and Humanity

AEI has a highly developed research culture that promotes interdisciplinary research. The area of study for our Ph.D programme is in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Research proposals for our Ph.D programme must be on multidisciplinary and comparative in nature encompassing any nation or region in the world within Asia and Europe.

Research areas in the field of study include the following:

- Globalisation, Regional Integration and Development
- Sustainability, Governance and Social Change
- Multiculturalism and Community Development
- Social Development and Ethnicity
- ASEAN-EU Research Areas
- Business Network, Knowledge Management and Competence
- Gender and Development
- Islam and Society
- European Studies and European Union

BUILDING TIES BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) is one of the leading institutions for postgraduate teaching and research. We offer students the opportunities to learn from the best professors from Asia and Europe.

The Institute offers International Masters and Ph.D programmes in various fields of social sciences and humanities such as the following:

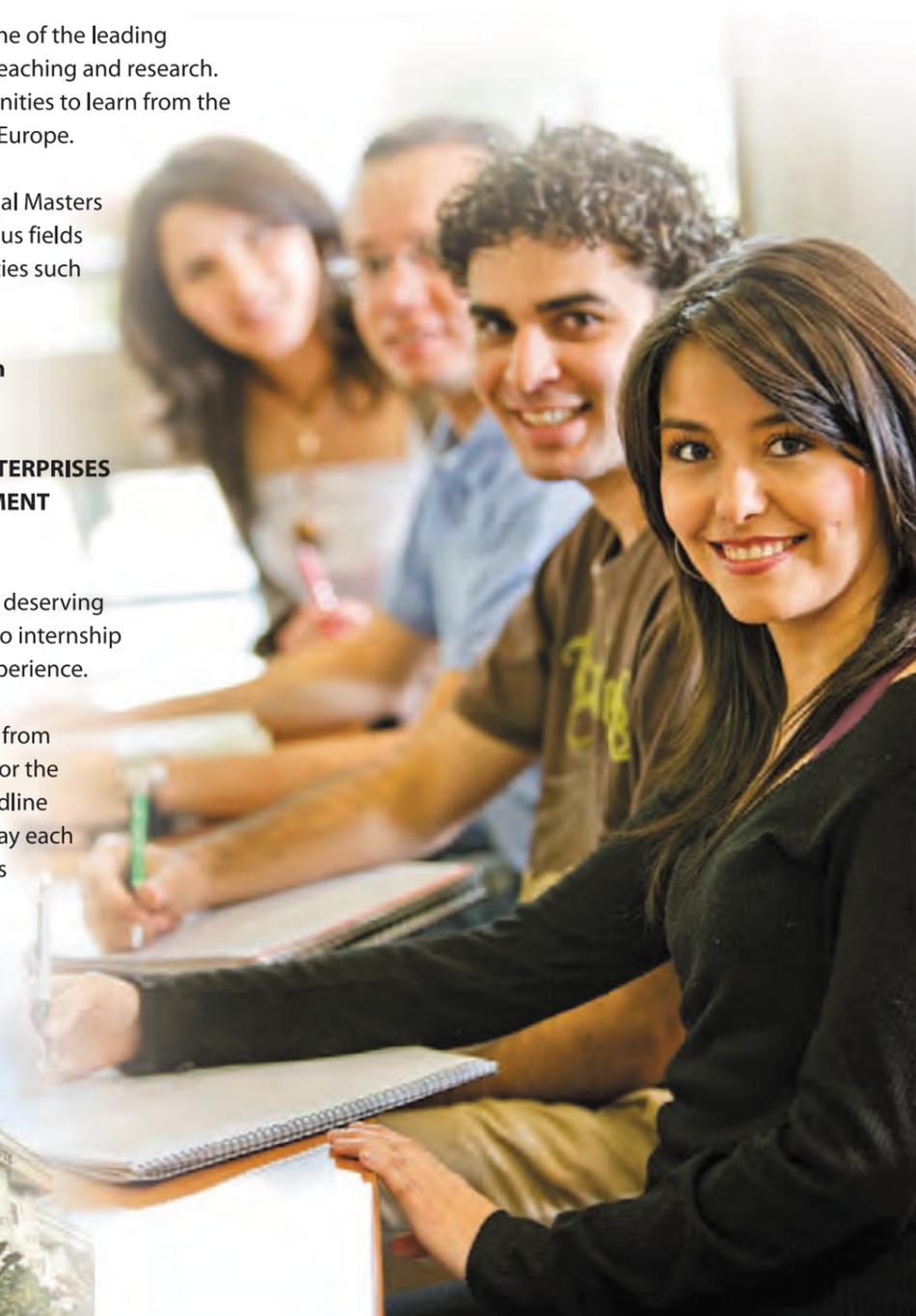
INTERNATIONAL MASTERS in

- **REGIONAL INTEGRATION**
- **ASEAN STUDIES**
- **SMALL-AND-MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**
- **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

Ph.D

AEI offers financial support for deserving students and opportunity to do internship abroad for real life working experience.

We also welcome applications from qualified candidates to apply for the annual September intake. Deadline for applications is before 31 May each year. Application for our Ph.D is throughout the year.



<http://aei.um.edu.my>

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