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Prof
PRASENJIT DUARA

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The summer months may not provide relief from the heat, but life in ARI hums along in air-conditioned tranquility. Visitors on summer research travel from universities across the world are beginning to arrive and display their intellectual wares.

Our largest group—the graduate students largely from the Southeast Asian region in the Asian Graduate Student Fellowship programme now in its seventh year—is already here. We consider this programme to be our signal contribution to graduate education in the region. Over thirty-five students spend about two and a half months at ARI making full use of the resources held in the libraries of NUS, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and other institutions in Singapore.

Just as importantly they work closely with the faculty—including the Academic Writing and Communication Programme with Kay Mohlman—as well as with pre-eminent visitors in their field such as Thongchai Winichakul and others. Towards the end of the stay we host the Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia Studies where the students formally present their research in a workshop setting attended by their peers and their NUS/ARI advisors. To date, each cohort has built an enviable sense of camaraderie and regard their time here as a very valuable experience.

The next group was the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) scholars who spent the last week of May presenting very substantial papers on the problem of water in the Asia Pacific region (*The Value of Water: Water, Values and Society in the Asia Pacific Region*). Rarely has an event hosted by ARI (and co-sponsored by APRU) brought together scholars from such a very wide range of disciplines, including engineers, economists, environmental scientists, atmospheric chemists, biologists, anthropologists, and public policy analysts to work on a common problem. We hope to be able

to develop some of these relationships to further more collaborative work with scientists regarding the multi-dimensional field of water studies.

Finally, we have been welcoming a steady stream of individual visitors, especially from North America, who are spending several months doing their work and presenting it to us. Mayfair Yang will present the first Asia Trends lecture, within days of her arrival, on ritual economy and religious revival in Wenzhou, SE China. The summer will be capped by a major conference undertaken with IIAS of the Netherlands and NSC in ISEAS on *Asian Borderlands Conference: Connections, Corridors, Communities, October 11-13, 2012*. The conference is expected to bring around a hundred participants working on the small communities between the large Asian states (China, India, Thailand, Burma, etc). This theme is beginning to emerge as an important focus of ARI research as several of our younger scholars have turned their attention to it. I expect it to be a productive focus because marginal and cross-border actors can tell us a lot about core processes as it affects them.

Professor Chua Beng Huat gave a keynote speech on "Conceptualization and Reference and Cultural Studies in Asia", at the conference on *Critical Connections: Forum on Cultural Studies in Asia and Beyond*, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, 16 March 2012.

Professor Prasenjit Duara gave 3 keynote speeches: "Chinese Civilization and the Problem of Sustainability", at the Center for International Studies of Chinese Civilization, Fudan University, Shanghai, 9 March 2012; "China, India and the ASEAN Nexus: A Historical View" at the *Scholarly Colloquium on India China Studies*, The India China Institute, New School for Social Research, New York City, 26 April 2012; "Area Studies in Global Context: The 'Place' of Asia", at University of Oregon, 10-12 May 2012.

He also gave the Inaugural 30th Annual J.F. Zeidman Memorial Lecture, at Sidwell Friends School, Washington DC, 19 March 2012 and a plenary speech on "The Historical Logics of Post-Western

Modernity", for the panel on "Rethinking Global Power/The Future of Capitalism" at the *40th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology (IIS)*, Delhi, 16-19 February 2012.

Professor Robin Jeffrey gave the annual Editors' Guild of India Rajendra Mathur Memorial Lecture on "Media Meditations History, Prospects and Two Challenges" at the Indian International Centre, New Delhi, 31 March 2012.

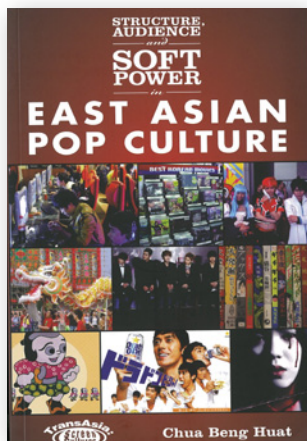
Professor Gavin Jones gave a keynote address to an expert workshop on "Ageing and Innovation" held by the Federal Institute for Population Research and the KfW (the German Development Bank) in Berlin, 9 May 2012.

Dr Lai Ah Eng was appointed Member of Arts Advisory Panel, National Arts Council, 1 April 2012-31 March 2014.

Professor Brenda Yeoh gave a keynote speech "The Place of the Commercially Matched Marriage Migrant in Singapore: Debates on (Social) Reproduction, 'Social Problem'

and Social Support" (co-authored with Dr Chee Heng Leng), at the *International Conference on Migration, (Social) Reproduction and Social Protection*, University of East Anglia London, United Kingdom, 2-3 April 2012. She was also appointed Member of the Arts Advisory Panel, National Arts Council, 1 April 2012-31 March 2014.

Professor Jean Yeung Wei-Jun gave a plenary speech on "Economic Development and Children's Education and Health in China" at the *Shanghai Forum*, Shanghai, China, 26-28 May 2012. She was also re-appointed as Member of the National Family Council, Father's Action Network, Singapore, January 2012; Member of the NUS Senate Delegacy committee, January 2012; Chair, Steering Committee, Research Cluster for Family, Children and Youth, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, March 2012; Member of the International Academic Advisory Committee for the Institute for Social Science Survey in Peking University, China, April 2012.



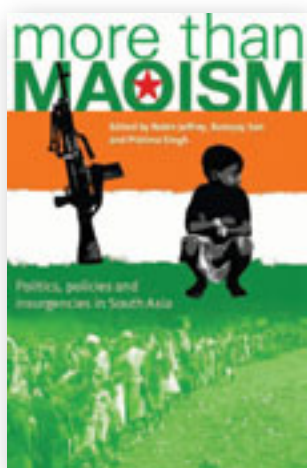
Structure, Audience and Soft Power in East Asian Pop Culture

Chua Beng Huat
Hong Kong University Press,
Hong Kong, 2012



Civilisation and Empire: Anthropology of China in Perspective

Special Issue of *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 13 (2)
Yongjia Liang (guest ed)



More than Maoism: Politics, Policies and Insurgencies in South Asia

Robin Jeffrey, Ronojoy Sen, and Pratima Singh (eds)
Manohar Publishers, Delhi,
2012



Dharma Pātāñjala; A Śaiva Scripture from Ancient Java Studied in the Light of Related Old Javanese and Sanskrit Texts

Gonda Indological Studies XVI
Andrea Acri
Egbert Forsten Publishing,
Groningen, the Netherlands
2011 (printed in April 2012)



Assoc. Prof.
DINAH ROMA
SIANTURI

The seed of this interview emerged after I raised the idea of a book project with Prof Thongchai Winichakul early this year. I was interested in examining the intersections of history and literature, and how narrative achieves (or thwarts) the goals of truth and pleasure in the two realms. The book idea of *The Makings of an Intellectual in Southeast Asia* came as a way of expanding and documenting the conversations that grew out of the initial exchange.

OF MAPS AND SILENCES: AN INTERVIEW WITH THONGCHAI WINICHAKUL

When I eventually told Prof Winichakul of my plan to make him the subject of one of the chapters, he remarked on the book's possible contribution to the field of Southeast Asian Studies. But he soon became the inquisitive subject that he is when he asked: "Oh, by the way, what do you mean by 'intellectual'?" It was the kind of question that he is wont to ask, I have observed many times over the two years at ARI; the kind that unsettles the very grounds by which one attempts to build an idea. It challenges. It ignites an expansion in thinking. Soon I realized that it was this relentless inquiry into the fundamentals of ways of thinking that propelled him onto the turning points in his political and intellectual life.

In the excerpts that follow Prof Winichakul illuminated on the genesis of his award-winning first book *Siam Mapped*. Through the intense struggle of writing a dissertation (one that brought him into a hiatus of watching cricket for four months), he surfaced with a sense of rebelliousness that led to a crucial epiphany in his identity as a historian: "Tell a good story. Simple. Of course, I'm not a fictionist. I'm not a novelist. I can understand the difference between socioeconomic analysis and history. It's fine. But I'm not going to do that. It's not interesting

to me anymore. What is important is to tell a good story. Everyone has it. What is a good story to me is convincing, rebellious, hard to deny. Even at the start, the reason why I chose maps... many historians would always write about socioeconomic history...big stories...they want to cover everything. But this is what I learned as a writer: the beautiful thing is to write about a very focused, small subject that reveals everything. That's why in the end it became the map. And that's why I was happy to scrap the five earlier chapters I wrote."

With his first book acclaimed as one of the key texts in Southeast Asian Studies, Prof Winichakul's second book on the 1976 Thammasat student massacre promises to be an unforgettable paean to the lost lives, to those who had lost the sense of future, and those who have lived on. But as with any subsequent work, he feels it carries the stigma of the earlier one. Thus, it has to be a lot better.

Recalling the solemn ambience in the ARI seminar room on 11 February 2011 when Prof Winichakul delivered the paper "Moments of Silence: The Unforgetting of the 1976 Massacre in Bangkok," I had to ask if he sees history



Prof
THONGCHAI
WINICHAKUL

now as more forgiving: "What do you mean by 'forgiving'? If you mean it in the sense that I can live with this; I don't say happily but resigned, living with it...yes. This is it. I don't feel like an angry young man....Most people think the same thing, most historians... meaning when they are young they write it from 'reason'. Let's say if I compare...I might produce a book, the first book better than many others who produced socioeconomic whatever... but we all have the same trajectory—



Pagodas in Chiangmai

“History is just another name for annihilation”—the Nobel Laureate for Literature Czeslaw Milosz wrote. For the poet, dark as the declaration seems, the end can only give way to possibilities. From the rubbles of loss, one survives. And with it comes the weight of witnessing: to tell the story.

which is writing from the brain, writing from the reason, up to a certain point we're writing from a source much richer than that. Development is unavoidable. One has to be older. But it doesn't guarantee that when one gets older one gets smarter. But for a better work it requires the ability to articulate, ability to absorb, understand... paradoxes, uncertainties."

To distil the contents of the interview to a few pithy commentaries as the genre often dictates is to search for a unique story. These are the shifts and accidents that count as life's nodal growths—those that make our pursuits, intellectual or otherwise, meaningful, not only for us but more so for others.

As I listened again to the interview in order to write this article, I had to get the words clear against the background noise in the Wine Company. The effort to focus made me limn the narratives more clearly—the way they interrogate the past, de-familiarize the present, and give valence to the future. I remember feeling grateful for the privilege of probing into another person's life and being answered with as much introspection, honesty, and candor.

At present, Prof Winichakul is the vice-president of the Association for Asian Studies. As part of its major initiatives in the next few years, he is working toward the AAS-in-Asia (AASiA) annual meeting which is meant to make the AAS meeting more accessible to scholars in Asia. The first AASiA in Singapore is set for summer 2014. ARI, through its Director Prof Prasenjit Duara, has committed on behalf of the NUS to host the first AASiA. Although Prof Winichakul returns to Madison, Wisconsin once he completes his research fellowship, the AASiA undertaking will retain his ties with ARI.

Assoc Prof Dinah Roma Sianturi recently concluded her 2-year research fellowship at ARI with the Cultural Studies Cluster. She is currently the Chair of the Department of Literature at De La Salle University, Manila.

“Europe is hard to get in but easy to stay on; Asian countries are easy to get in but hard to stay on.”

This was how a would-be migrant in China compared different options. Destinations in Asia are hard to stay on because the migrants have to return. The overwhelming majority of the 15 million intra-Asia migrant workers are on strictly temporary terms and have to return home once their contracts are due. Such return-oriented circulatory migration makes Asia one of the most mobile yet most regulated regions in the world.



A street demonstration organized by a Japanese association in Brazil in 1955 demanding repatriation. The banner on the front reads 'Ethnic Return'.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of the Japanese Immigration in Brazil, São Paulo.



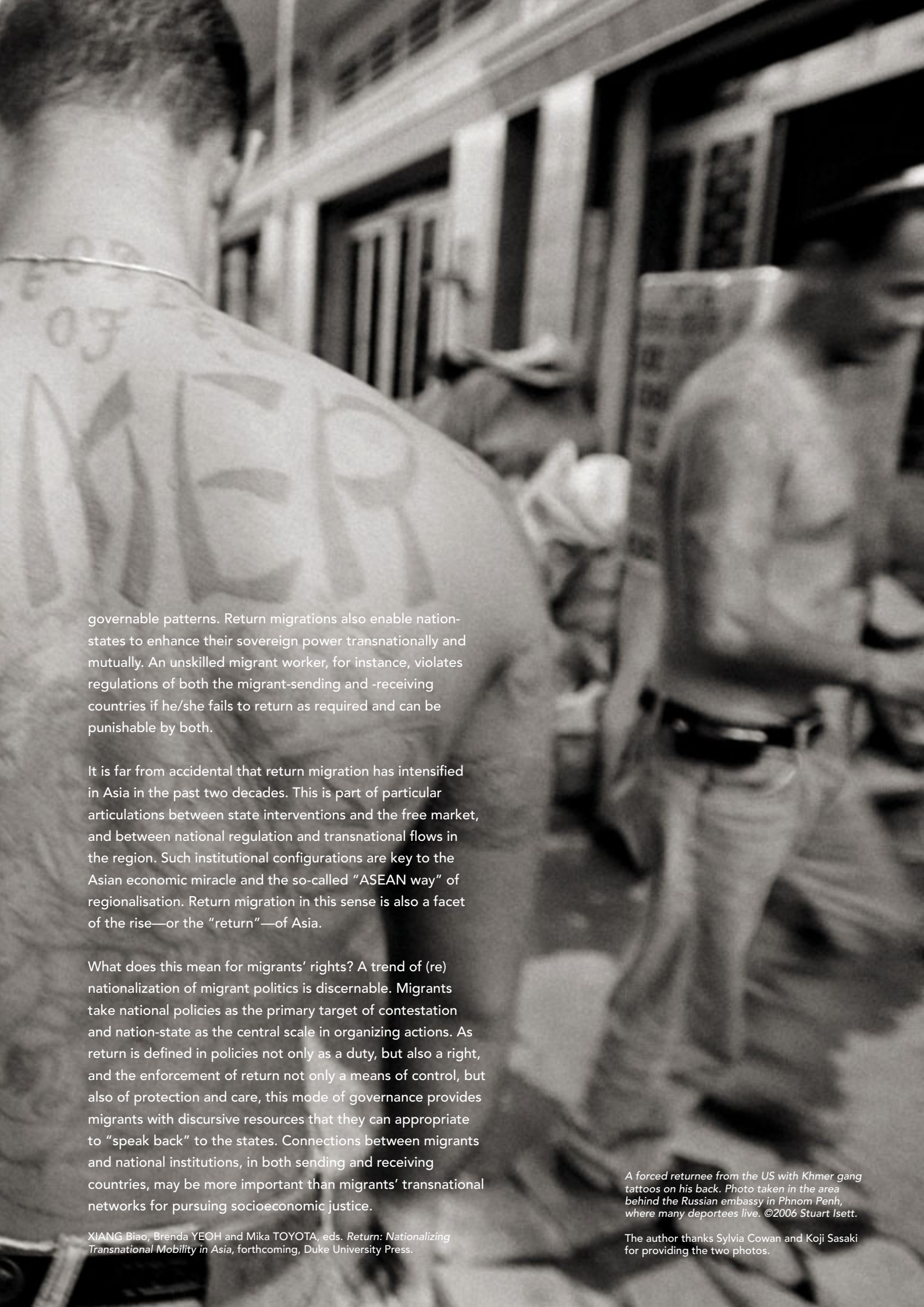
XIANG BIAO
Visiting Senior Research Fellow

RETURN: NATIONALIZING TRANSNATIONAL MOBILITY IN ASIA

In addition to contract workers, large numbers of “irregular” migrants are routinely forced to return, especially since the late 1990s. The Malaysian *Ops Tegas* (Operation Tough) campaign in March 2005 which expelled up to 800,000 irregular migrants was described by the government as “one of the biggest transmigration programs in the world.” Of a smaller scale but higher visibility is the return of refugees and victims of human trafficking. Finally there are returning professionals and entrepreneurs from the West, especially to China and India.

These diverse return flows are related to each other in that they are encouraged, facilitated and often enforced by states, often through inter-governmental agreements. They are all part of an overarching mode of governance that emerged in Asia in the 1990s. This mode of governance regulates mobility by facilitating, instead of blocking, the movements. Return is mobility of such a kind that it tames mobility. Constant in-and-out circulations fit migration into the framework of nation-states. Return thus “nationalizes” transnational mobility. Indeed, the word “return” is itself nationalized: migrants seldom return to their place of birth and what the word “return” actually means is the movement from overseas to any part of the nation of origin.

Nationalization is a way of ordering transnational mobility instead of a means of territorial fixing. Following Georg Simmel’s celebration of the “miracle of road” for its “freezing movement in a solid structure”, we may liken return programmes to roundabouts that channel migration into



governable patterns. Return migrations also enable nation-states to enhance their sovereign power transnationally and mutually. An unskilled migrant worker, for instance, violates regulations of both the migrant-sending and -receiving countries if he/she fails to return as required and can be punishable by both.

It is far from accidental that return migration has intensified in Asia in the past two decades. This is part of particular articulations between state interventions and the free market, and between national regulation and transnational flows in the region. Such institutional configurations are key to the Asian economic miracle and the so-called “ASEAN way” of regionalisation. Return migration in this sense is also a facet of the rise—or the “return”—of Asia.

What does this mean for migrants’ rights? A trend of (re) nationalization of migrant politics is discernable. Migrants take national policies as the primary target of contestation and nation-state as the central scale in organizing actions. As return is defined in policies not only as a duty, but also a right, and the enforcement of return not only a means of control, but also of protection and care, this mode of governance provides migrants with discursive resources that they can appropriate to “speak back” to the states. Connections between migrants and national institutions, in both sending and receiving countries, may be more important than migrants’ transnational networks for pursuing socioeconomic justice.

XIANG Biao, Brenda YEOH and Mika TOYOTA, eds. *Return: Nationalizing Transnational Mobility in Asia*, forthcoming, Duke University Press.

A forced returnee from the US with Khmer gang tattoos on his back. Photo taken in the area behind the Russian embassy in Phnom Penh, where many deportees live. ©2006 Stuart Isett.

The author thanks Sylvia Cowan and Koji Sasaki for providing the two photos.



MARTIN SAXER
Postdoctoral Fellow

NEW ROADS, OLD TRADES

A little shop, a satellite dish, oil barrels, a few tents, a truck without number plates, and a group of stray dogs that started circling the camp on the very evening we arrived: this is Tukling at the upper tip of the Limi Valley in Nepal's far northwest.

The nearest airfield in Nepal is several days' walk away from here, but the border to China is close. A new road down from Tibet reached here last year. The little shop sells goods imported from China—batteries, beer, shoes, jackets, cigarettes, rice, flour, pans, pots, etc. It was established by a young entrepreneur from a village nearby who came back from Kathmandu for this purpose. He bought a Chinese-made Dongfeng truck and a satellite telephone link to coordinate operations. A signboard lists his five phone numbers in India, China and Nepal. His younger brother runs the shop while he continues his business ventures throughout Asia.



Tukling, Limi Valley, Nepal. All images © 2012 Martin Saxer



Tukling, Limi Valley, Nepal. All images © 2012 Martin Saxer

Last summer, two other groups of young people followed the two brothers' footsteps and set up camp here as well. Tukling, the last outpost in one of Nepal's most remote valleys, is quickly becoming a business hub for transnational trade. However, this is not a totally new phenomenon. The place has a long history as trade mart on what was once a vibrant trade route between Central and South Asia. Large sheep and goat caravans carried grain, dyes, medicines, watches and other luxury items up to the Tibetan Plateau where they were exchanged for salt and fine wool. After the border demarcation between the People's Republic of China and Nepal in the early 1960s Limi found itself on the

Nepal side. The border closed and trade along this route fell into decline.

The new road built over the past two years holds the promise to finally restore old glory and prosperity. It was largely constructed on credit from local businessmen. With a single excavator and much enthusiasm, the Road Construction Committee—a group of people from nearby villages—built 67 kilometres of road in merely eighteen months. The government of Nepal promised funds but no money has reached the valley yet. It is argued that the Committee failed to follow the appropriate bidding procedures—an irony given that the rule was introduced to stop corrupt contractors

but not active village committees. As of May 2012, the problem remained unsolved.

I visited the Limi Valley in September 2011 as part of my research into the effects of China's rise on the people living along its borders. The common assumption about Himalayan valleys is that they are rural peripheries from where people move out to urban centres in search of work and fortune. However, the stories of these young entrepreneurs coming back to the borderlands put this assumption into question. Rather than a rural periphery, Tukling is a little node on an old pathway in the process of regaining importance.

(More on the Limi valley and Martin's research: www.theotherimage.com)

RELIGION AND GLOBALISATION IN ASIAN CONTEXTS

The Religion and Globalisation in Asian Contexts Cluster has had a dynamic quarter, with multiple arrivals and departures.

We bid fond farewell to Julius Bautista (who has not gone too far away—just to the Department of Southeast Asian Studies at NUS), Alexey Kirichenko, and Deepa Nair, and we warmly welcomed Andrea Acri, Jeffrey Samuels, and Janet Hoskins. Cluster members have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and share our work with each other afforded by both welcome and farewell events for these colleagues.

One of our primary focuses within the cluster is a set of activities around Religion and Development. Under that rubric we have established a Religion and Development reading group, which meets every two to three months, and is described

in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter. We will be kicking off the Religion and Development theme with a conference entitled *Salvage and Salvation: Religion, Disaster Relief, and Reconstruction in Asia*, 22-23 November 2012, under the leadership of Philip Fountain and Levi McLaughlin. Work towards that conference and subsequent volume is well underway.

The cluster continues to hold its monthly Works in Progress reading group—in which we read and offer constructive critical feedback on each others' work. Cluster members also continue to be active contributors to the ARI Seminar Series, presenting their research on a wide range of issues.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

26–27 JULY 2012

ASIAN BIPOLEIS II: CROSSING BOUNDARIES

This internal two-day project workshop is the key annual event supporting the ongoing work of the project “ASIAN BIPOLEIS: Biotechnology and Biomedicine as Emergent Forms of Life and Practice”. This project, through focusing on biotechnology in Asia and globally, seeks to develop three tracks of work: The context of biotechnology in Asia through developing a rich picture of the existing network, origins and key policies and threats; The products, key objects and media, environment and work done in Asian biotechnology institutes; The politics, ethics, organisation and future challenging developments in Asian biotechnology. Thus the project is tracing, among others, the historical trajectories of Asian biotechnology, and how these contribute to its strong emergence at the present moment and the networks of collaboration and influence in various areas of biotechnology and the life sciences as these are developing in Singapore and on pan-Asian and global scales.

Contact person for further details:

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30–31 AUGUST 2012

INTER-ASIA ROUNDTABLE 2012: METHODOLOGICAL AND CONCEPTUAL ISSUES IN CYBER ACTIVISM RESEARCH

Cyber activism covers a wide range of practices, from hacking to flash mobs to civil society organising to social revolt. Most of the academic analyses are of episodic character that examines retrospectively the significant events after the fact. Yet, chronologically, some level of online cyber activities would have had to take place prior to the manifestation of the event offline; in the process of the event unfolding, of course, continuous online activities serve to amplify the event. This gives rise to questions such as: Is it methodologically possible to analyse cyber activism before it erupts in the offline world? How do we conceptualise the processes from initiation, accumulation of density to full blown event? What do we mean by a message going “viral”? The aim of this closed-door Roundtable is to examine the methodological and conceptual questions of research in cyber activism, with comments from cyber activists from different parts of Asia.

Contact person for further details:

Ms Sharon Ong:
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11–13 OCTOBER 2012

ASIAN BORDERLANDS CONFERENCE: CONNECTIONS, CORRIDORS, COMMUNITIES

This conference is hosted by ARI and the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Extensive land and maritime networks have crisscrossed Asia for centuries, providing the basis for encounters between diverse ethnic, linguistic, economic, religious, and political groups. Today, developments such as new infrastructural projects, an increase in media access, and renewed interest in shaping cross-border cultural identities serve to both underscore these long-standing linkages and create new forms of connections across Asia. This conference will address continuities and ruptures along routes and borders in Asia, broadly related to these themes—Connections: How are Asian borderlands made more (or less) visible through the study of cross-border connections?; Corridors: Are networks and paths throughout Asian borderlands being forged, reopened, diverted, or closed, and what are the effects of such processes?; Communities: What constitutes a “community” or “communities” in and across Asian borderlands, and how might these be contingent upon other factors, such as politics, environmental issues, and history?

Contact person for further details:

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5–6 NOVEMBER 2012

THE “DIASPORA STRATEGIES” OF MIGRANT-SENDING COUNTRIES: MIGRATION-AS-DEVELOPMENT REINVENTED?

This workshop will highlight “diaspora strategies” trends in the Asia-Pacific region and, in particular, Southeast Asian countries. This approach opens up theoretical space for exploring and re-connecting the conceptual divide between so-called “developing” countries (usually incorporated into the migration-as-development or MAD discourse) and “developed” countries (largely detached from the MAD discourse and framed as brain circulation instead). The regional focus will bring into view the distinctive logics and aspirations underpinning “diaspora strategies” by member countries and draw out the commonalities shared with countries implementing similar policies in other regional contexts such as Africa, the Americas and Europe. Some issues to be explored are: How are “diaspora strategies” shaped, or not shaped, by the MAD discourse in specific country contexts and in the broader Asia-Pacific and Southeast Asian regional contexts? Why?; In what ways are strategies to mobilise a national “diaspora” complicated by proliferating emigrant mobilities that generate multiple affiliations, identities and belonging amongst citizens-in-migrancy?

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Dr Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho:
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15–16 NOVEMBER 2012

MARRIAGE IN ASIA: TRENDS, DETERMINANTS AND IMPLICATIONS

This conference is jointly organised by the Changing Family in Asia Cluster, ARI, Children and Youth Cluster, FASS, NUS, and Scientific Group on “Marriage Transition in Asia”, Asian Population Association. It aims to enhance our understanding of the processes at work in marriage and their determinants. It also seeks to investigate changing trends in marriage and the implications they have upon the societies in which they occur. Issues explored will include age at and timing of marriage; the arrangement of marriage (considering the spectrum of self-choice to fully arranged); barriers to marriage (including caste, educational homogamy, distorted sex ratios); the influence of technology upon spouse selection; labour market, kinship and other cultural factors that influence marriage. The often-neglected male perspective will be explored too.

Contact persons for further details:

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Dr Maria Platt:
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22–23 NOVEMBER 2012

SALVAGE AND SALVATION: RELIGION, DISASTER RELIEF, AND RECONSTRUCTION IN ASIA

What does it mean to offer salvation in the midst of catastrophe? What dynamics are in play at the intersection of religion and disaster relief in Asia? This workshop seeks to address the following topics, among others, as they relate to the Asian region: Analysis of the types of humanitarian work undertaken by Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, and other religious groups in response to disasters, including rescue operations, medical and post-traumatic care, fundraising, reconstruction, mitigation, proselytising, spiritual counseling, and other interventions; Doctrinal, ritual, clerical, and/or institutional innovations occasioned by religious disaster responses; Imaginations and perceptions of religion by state actors and humanitarian organisations.

Contact persons for further details:

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Dr Levi McLaughlin:
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METACLUSTER READING GROUP

The ARI *Metacluster Historical Sociology of Asian Connections* was initiated in April 2011 and its reading group formed shortly thereafter in May 2011. The reading group has met regularly on a monthly basis for over a year. It currently has twenty-three members engaged with examining texts and sharing ideas centred on the notion that the evolution and growth of any nation, state, or civilisation cannot be understood solely in terms of internal factors and influences alone without taking into account circulatory processes and interactions with other societies and cultures. As various parts of Asia become increasingly interdependent there is need for an approach that acknowledges inter-regional and intercultural connections as crucial influences on intra-regional and intra-cultural processes. The readings for the metacluster are selected for their focus on facilitating and deepening such a new connective paradigm for society and knowledge. It is this paradigmatic orientation to the wide diversity of issues it addresses from many disciplines that distinguishes the metacluster from other ARI clusters whose focus is more on thematic issues.

Information concerning the books read, their authors, supplementary readings, and also some relevant interviews with authors and reviews of their books, can be found on the website *Asian Connections Reading Group* on the ARI website.

RELIGION AND DEVELOPMENT READING GROUP

In keeping with the etiquette of polite dinner parties religion has traditionally been one of those topics regarded as something of a taboo among scholars of aid and development. One intuitively knew that to have a sensible conversation such issues could hardly be ignored, but table manners prohibited broaching the subject.

At least this was the case until quite recently when the few peripheral whispers on the subject suddenly and unexpectedly transmuted into a torrent of lively chatter. Religion has become a centrepiece for conversation; the life of the party.

Responding to this mini-revolution the Religion and Globalisation in Asian Contexts Cluster has positioned "Religion and NGOs" as at the centre of its research agenda. As part of a wide-ranging exploration of this theme, the cluster has kick-started a reading group on "religion and development" to track, examine and critique the emerging literature.

Participants come from across the disciplines and also include development practitioners. These interactions have been cultivated in order to ensure that discussions benefit from diverse perspectives and so as to shirk the bane of insularity.

In our first two meetings we discussed Daromir Rudnyckyj's *Spiritual Economies* (Cornell; 2010) and C. Julia Huang's *Charisma and Compassion* (Harvard; 2009). Both produced rich and animated conversation. Projected future books include, among others, Michael Barnett's *Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism* (Cornell; 2011), and Erica Bornstein's *Disquieting Gifts: Humanitarianism in New Delhi* (Stanford; 2012).

For more information contact Philip Fountain (aripmf@nus.edu.sg) or Robin Bush (arirb@nus.edu.sg) or visit the group's website: www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events/ReligionDevelopmentReadingGroup.htm



Dr Nalin Mehta has commenced a 1-year joint appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Asian Urbanisms Cluster in ARI and the Institute of South Asian Studies with effect from 19 March 2012. A DFID-Commonwealth scholar, Dr Mehta received his PhD from La Trobe University, Melbourne, and has held senior positions with the UN and the Global Fund in Geneva, working on issues around global health financing.

At ARI, Dr Mehta will be focusing on two major projects: the changing political economy of Indian television and its social implications; and the transformation of the Congress Party and Indian politics over the past three decades.



Dr Andrea Acri has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Religion and Globalisation Cluster with effect from 2 April 2012. Dr Acri holds a Laurea degree in Oriental Languages and Cultures (Sanskrit) from the University of Rome 'Sapienza', and specialises in Sanskrit and Old Javanese languages and textual criticism, with special focus on Śaiva sources from both South and Southeast Asia. His areas of research interest are Hinduism and Indian philosophies, Sanskrit and Old Javanese languages and literatures, intellectual history of the Indic world. At ARI he will work on his monograph on the "making of Balinese Hinduism" using a comparative and text-historical perspective.



Dr Chen Haidan has commenced a 1-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Science, Technology, and Society Cluster with effect from 23 April 2012. Dr Chen received her PhD in Philosophy of Science and Technology from Zhejiang University and her current research relates to the governance of biomedical research in China, in particular stem cell translational research, biobanks, and biomarkers. At ARI, she will be working on a book project titled "The Politics of Biomedical Transformation in China" and be involved in the Asian Biopoles project at Tembusu College.



Prof Janet Hoskins has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Religion and Globalisation Cluster with effect from 21 May 2012. Prof Hoskins is Professor of Anthropology and Religion at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California. She received her PhD from Harvard University, and focuses on the study of transnational religion, material culture, immigration and media. She is currently working on a monograph titled "The Divine Eye and the Diaspora: Vietnamese Caodaism in Global Perspective" and has done ethnographic research in Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and California. Her area of research interest is Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia and Vietnam.



Assoc Prof Jeffrey Samuels has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Religion and Globalisation Cluster with effect from 28 May 2012. A/P Samuels received his PhD (History of Religions) from the University of Virginia. His academic interests centre on the intersection of religion, history, and culture in South and Southeast Asia. At ARI, he plans to write an article examining how a global identity such as "Theravada" and "Buddhist" functions as strategies of legitimation for Chinese Malaysians and other Buddhist minorities (e.g., Sri Lankan, Myanmar, and Thai) experiencing marginalisation vis-à-vis the dominant Malay-Muslim nation-state of Malaysia. He will also continue working on his book manuscript, "Becoming Buddhists: Multiple Minorities in Malay-Muslim Malaysia".



Prof Ming Xia has commenced a 3-month appointment as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Open Cluster with effect from 28 May 2012. Prof Ming received his PhD (Political Science) from Temple University. He is a Professor of Political Science at Graduate Center and the College of Staten Island, the City University of New York. His research focus is on the Indo-Tibetan-Chinese interactions. He is the author of *The Dual Developmental State* (Ashgate 2000), and *The People's Congresses and Governance in China* (Routledge 2008; 2011). He was also among the "Top 100 Chinese Public Intellectuals" of 2009, 2010 and 2011.

At ARI he plans to complete two articles: "Intellectual Foundations for Cosmopolitanism and Democratic Union in Asia: An Indo-Chinese Dialogue", and "The 14th Dalai Lama's Leadership, His Transformation of Regimes, and Their Reciprocation with Indo-Chinese Relationship".



Prof Michael Douglass has commenced a 5-year joint appointment as Professor in the Asian Urbanisms Cluster in ARI and the Department of Sociology with effect from 12 June 2012. Prof Douglass received his PhD in Urban Planning from UCLA and is Emeritus Professor and former Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. He previously taught at the Institute of Social Studies (Netherlands) and at the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia (UK).

With a professional focus on urban and regional planning in Asia, his current research will be on (1) livable cities (the environment, personal well-being, and social-cultural life); (2) globalisation, the public city and public space; (3) international migration and the globalisation of households in Pacific Asia; (4) The environment and the urban transition in Asia; (5) trans-border intercity networks in East Asia; (6) filmmaking for social research and planning.

(SENIOR) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, VISITING (SENIOR) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Applications are invited for (Senior) Research Fellowships, Visiting (Senior) Research Fellowships and Postdoctoral Fellowships at the Asia Research Institute (ARI).

The positions are intended for outstanding active researchers from around the world, to work on an important piece of research in the social sciences and humanities. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged.

A majority of the positions will be allocated to the more specific areas listed below. However some will be reserved for outstanding projects in any area outside of those listed. Applicants should mention which category they are applying to or if none, indicate "open category". Applications which link more than one field are also welcome.

(SENIOR) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

1. The appointment will commence in June/July 2013 or December 2013/January 2014 and be tenable for a period of two years at the first instance, with the possibility of extension for another term of two years (i.e. up to a total of a four-year term).
2. Interested applicants should have at least a PhD with a few years of postdoctoral research experience.
3. The fellowship comes with a competitive remuneration and benefits package, depending on seniority, and support for research and fieldwork, and conference attendance (on application and subject to approval).

1-YEAR VISITING (SENIOR) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

1. The appointment will commence in April, July, or October 2013 and have a normative tenure of one year, though shorter periods may be negotiated. Interested applicants should have at least a PhD with a few years of postdoctoral research experience.
2. The fellowship comes with a monthly honorarium of S\$2,250, plus complimentary university housing and travel assistance, and limited support for research and fieldwork, and conference attendance (on application and subject to approval).

3-MONTH VISITING (SENIOR) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

1. The appointment may commence in April, July or October 2013.
2. The positions are intended for outstanding researchers whose work focus on Asia, with a balance anticipated between senior and junior scholars.
3. Interested applicants should have at least a PhD with a few years of postdoctoral research experience. Applicants are invited to indicate which of the ARI clusters they would like to be affiliated with. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged.
4. The position is essentially a writing fellowship, and at least one published outcome is expected. Applicants who do not normally publish in English will be encouraged and assisted to do so.

5. The fellowship comes with a monthly honorarium of S\$2,250, plus complimentary university housing and travel assistance.

VISITING (SENIOR) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS UNDER THE ARI SABBATICAL LEAVE SCHEME

1. The appointment may commence in April, July or October 2013.
2. The positions are intended for researchers whose work focus on Asia and would like to devote the sabbatical term from their home institutions to conducting work in ARI, NUS.
3. Interested applicants should have at least a PhD with a few years of postdoctoral research experience. Applicants are invited to indicate which of the ARI clusters they would like to be affiliated with. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged.
4. The position is essentially a writing fellowship, and at least one published outcome is expected. Applicants who do not normally publish in English will be encouraged and assisted to do so.
5. This fellowship is intended for researchers who are in active employment of their home institutions, and applicants are expected to be self-financed.
6. For contracts of at least 3 months, medical benefits will be provided and travel assistance may be provided where necessary. Details of housing benefit will be provided to successful candidates.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

1. The contract will commence in June/July 2013 or December 2013/January 2014 and is tenable for a period of one year in the first instance with a possibility of extension to two years.
2. An all-inclusive and fixed monthly salary of S\$5,000 and a monthly housing allowance of S\$500 will be provided (applicable to non-Singaporeans only).
3. Support for research and fieldwork, and conference attendance (on application and subject to approval).
4. Candidates must have fulfilled all requirements of the PhD within the last 2 years. If you are a PhD candidate at the point of application, you may also apply provided that you are confirmed for graduation between June/July 2013 or December 2013/January 2014. A letter from your university will be required to confirm your graduation before your proposed start date.

The benefits that the University provides and other information about working in NUS and living in Singapore are available at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/careers/potentialhires/index.html>. Terms and conditions, according to university guidelines, are subject to changes without prior notice. For areas of research focus and application procedures, please refer to Appointments/Scholarships announcements at http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/article_view.asp?id=6

The closing date for applications is 24 August 2012.

Applications, reference letters and/or queries are to be submitted via email to: joinari.nus.edu.sg

ARI'S CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONALIZING GRADUATE EDUCATION IN ASIA



Kay Mohlman with Darwin and Warisara

KAY MOHLMAN
 Director of the Academic Writing and Communication Programme for the Asian Graduate Student Fellows
 (kmohlman@pacific.net.sg)

From mid-May to the end of July 2012, the Asian Graduate Student Fellows are once again in residence at the Asia Research Institute. Thirty-four MA and PhD students drawn from around Southeast Asia and beyond are here to use the resources of both ARI and the National University of Singapore to further their research and thesis writing. This year we have the first ever participant doing research on East Timor, plus eight other Fellows who are enrolled in Asian university degree programmes outside their home countries: one Malaysian studying at the National University of Taiwan, a Filipina student at the City University of Hong Kong, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian students attending various Thai universities, and an Indonesian student at the International Islamic University Malaysia. The intensive nine weeks in Singapore lay the basis for rich intellectual exchange and lasting collegial relationships among all the Graduate Fellows.

Two of this year's participants, Darwin and Warisara, explain the programme's appeal:

I want to have intercultural and international experiences as a researcher. Those experiences help broaden and shape my perspective when I go back as a pastor in Indonesia, where there are a lot of challenges related to interethnic and inter-religious issues. I am also the general secretary of Indonesian Communion Churches in Bogor City, West Java. I need to prepare myself with social knowledge in a global context so I can objectively and responsibly observe social phenomena related to identity and the multicultural role of religion in social life.

Darwin Darmawan, Indonesia

I would like to spend my time on writing my research, reading books and finding documents. However, the most important thing is that this is a great opportunity to meet and consult with my mentor and NUS academic scholars about historical concepts and research methodology. In addition, meeting and discussing with participants who come from other Southeast Asian countries can help me broaden my perspective, learn about their thoughts and cultures, and foster good understanding.

Warisara Tangkawanich, Thailand



A Portrait of Life of Asian Graduate Students in ARI
 (Sketch by Armando Soriano, Asian Graduate Student Fellow)