

INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

bringing southeast asia to the world

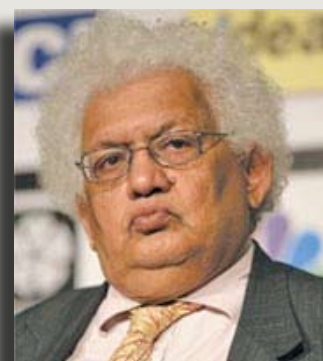


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WATCH OUT

for our announcement on the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre's first Annual Lecture by **LORD MEGHNAD DESAI**



The economist, politician and public intellectual will speak on
THE RE-EMERGENCE OF ASIA: THE WEST AND ASIA IN THE POST-VASCO DA GAMA ERA

For environmental reasons, we have moved to an online newsletter. However, if you wish to receive a printed version of the ISEAS newsletter, please send us your name, address and email ID to admin@iseas.edu.sg. To unsubscribe, drop us an email.

ASEAN and America: Why Partnerships Matter

BY MOE THUZAR

Consider these:

- A third of foreign-born Asians in the United States are from ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries.
- Students from ASEAN countries contribute US\$1 billion to the US economy. Students from Thailand ranked the highest among the ASEAN countries in 2007-08.
- 43 US cities or states have "sister city" relationships with 64 partners in ASEAN.

Prompted by the increasing importance of Asia in American lives, and the attendant need to assess the impact of US-ASEAN and US-Asian relations, ISEAS has partnered with the East-West Center in Washington in its new initiative, "ASEAN Matters for America/America Matters for ASEAN". The project was launched in Singapore on 7 June 2010 after an initial release by the East-West Center in the United States in April 2010.

The project – an interactive website www.ASEANMattersforAmerica.org – provides comprehensive information on existing partnerships between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its ten member states. It goes beyond the usual "data-dump" of information, and instead emphasises user-friendly analysis and visual graphics on both quantitative and qualitative data. Currently in its first phase, data on the website highlights ASEAN's importance to the US. The website's interactive tools allow anyone on either side of the Pacific Ocean interested in ASEAN-US relations to track ASEAN's importance to the US, and the United States' importance to ASEAN. ▼

THE WEBSITE GOES BEYOND THE USUAL "DATA-DUMP" OF INFORMATION, AND INSTEAD EMPHASISES USER-FRIENDLY ANALYSIS AND VISUAL GRAPHICS ON BOTH QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DATA.

This image, taken from the ASEANMattersforAmerica website, shows how raw data is visually enhanced and analysed.



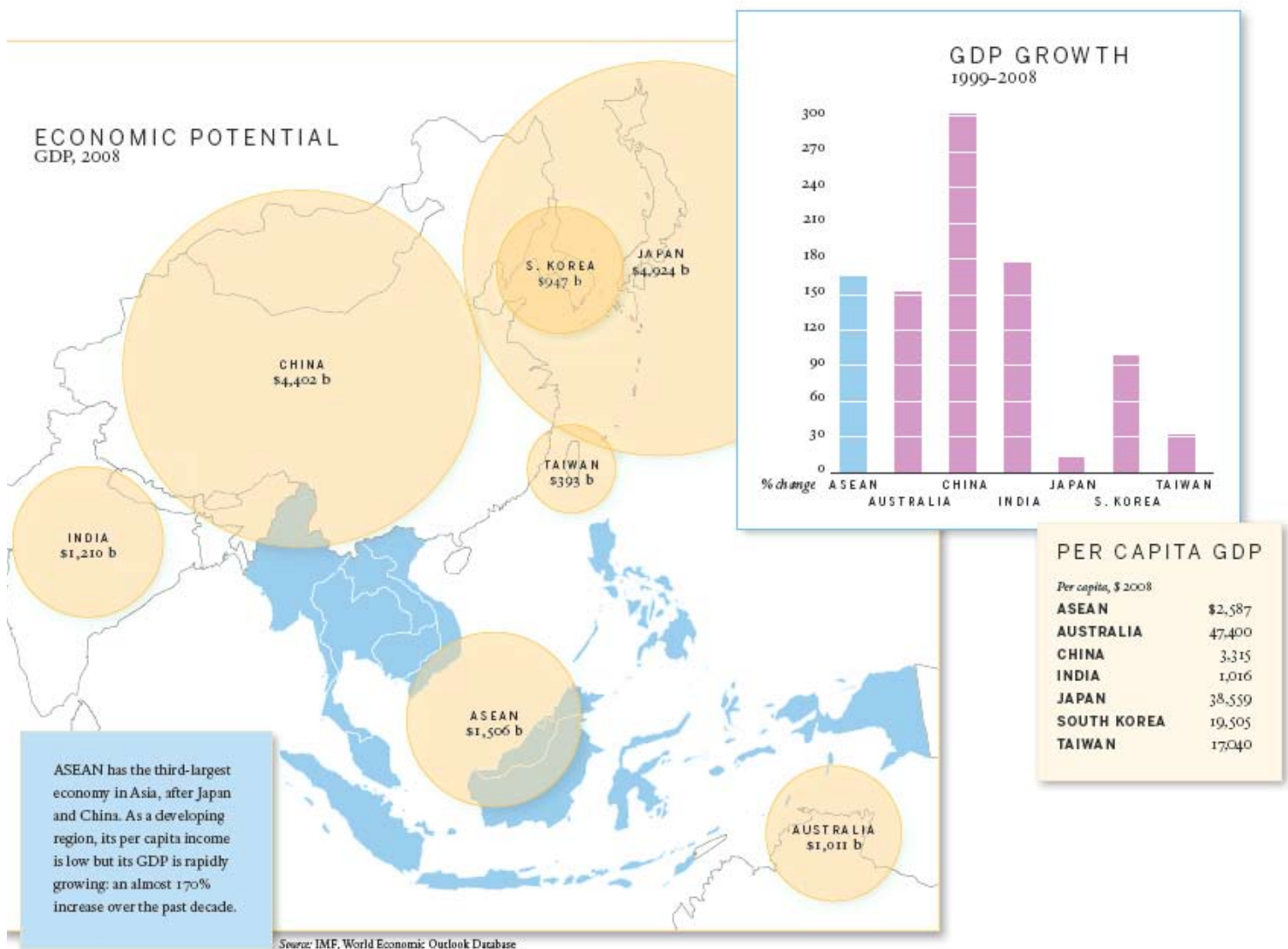
The "ASEAN Matters for America" initiative is an integral part of the East-West Centres "Asia Matters for America" project, which covers a comprehensive scope spanning South and East Asia. The project attempts to share interesting facts on how Asia – and ASEAN – has an impact on different levels of government, business and society in the US. For example, the interactive visualisation tool on the "ASEAN Matters for America" website shares nuggets of information such as:

- Idaho sends a greater share of its exports to the countries of ASEAN (36%) than any other state in the US. New Mexico (29%) and Maine (26%) are just behind.
- Oregon sends more exports to ASEAN (US\$3.66b) than New York state (US\$2.11b).

In terms of geostrategic importance, the website highlights ASEAN's strategic location and the share of global trade that passes through regional waters. The US is important to ASEAN as a benign guarantor of security in Asia with military ties of various kinds with some ASEAN countries and a deep interest in the freedom of navigation in the region's straits and the South China Sea. Economically, the US remains one of ASEAN's leading export markets. US foreign direct investment (FDI) into ASEAN in 2007 totalled US\$130 billion, making ASEAN the largest destination for US FDI in Asia, contrary to impressions otherwise.

This paints a realistic picture of the mutual importance of linkages between ASEAN and the US. The reality is that ASEAN and the US have always mattered to each other. The density in ASEAN-US relations in political/strategic, economic and people-to-people spheres has its foundation in the many institutional linkages between the two. The US became a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN way back in 1977, one of the first to become so. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has brought American senior officials

On the website, charts and graphs like the one below help make the numbers more comprehensible.



together with those from China, Russia, India, North Korea and other participants in the 27-member ARF grouping. This allows the US to engage in consultations and dialogue within the ARF without the formalities of official bilateral discussions.

The US-ASEAN Business Council, a body that includes as its members leading American corporations dealing with ASEAN, has also been a strong linkage between the US and ASEAN.

Comprehensive partnerships between the US and ASEAN, including the Enhanced Partnership announced in 2005, the ASEAN-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) signed in 2006, and the 2007 ASEAN Development Vision to Advance National Cooperation (ADVANCE) project have helped ASEAN countries strengthen and build capacity to relate more substantially with the global community, including the US.



A screen shot of an interactive graphic on the website. A drop-down menu helps the reader to select from different datasets and moving the mouse over each state reveals the various statistics one needs.

ASEAN-US relations thus far have been strengthened by President Obama's Administration, with the United States' accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) at the ARF ministerial meeting in 2009, and the first ASEAN-US Summit in Singapore in November 2009, allowing the President to meet all ten ASEAN heads of state/government. The ASEAN Plus Eight proposal now being considered provides a window for a regular frequency of such summits. The US also appointed the first Ambassador to ASEAN from a non-ASEAN country, following the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter.

All of these relationships and linkages arise from shared values between ASEAN and the US, guided by a result-oriented pragmatism and openness between the two partners and towards the rest of the world. And yet, there is still much scope for cultivating mutual understanding between the two sides. This is where "ASEAN Matters for America/America Matters for ASEAN" comes in. With information and data from the website, policy, academic and business communities in both ASEAN and the US can continue promoting the mutual understanding that is the bedrock of the relationship between this region and the US.

Ms Moe Thuzar is Lead Researcher, Socio-Cultural Affairs, ASEAN Studies Centre at ISEAS. Before joining the Centre, she headed the ASEAN Secretariat's Human Development Unit. She has contributed to various ASEAN compendia and publications on social and human development. Ms Thuzar co-authored Myanmar: Life after Nargis (ISEAS, 2009) and is currently co-editing reports on lessons for disaster management from Cyclone Nargis, environmental cooperation in ASEAN and the EU, and urbanisation in Southeast Asian countries. She is also working on a review of Myanmar's foreign policy.

Historical Interactions and Connectivities among Asian Societies

BY TANSEN SEN

The Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre at ISEAS serves as a forum for comprehensive study of the historical interactions and connectivities among Asian societies fostered through religious, cultural, and economic exchanges, and diasporic networks. The conferences, workshops, and seminars organised by the Centre provide an opportunity for scholars from around the world to present the latest research on and interpretations of intra-Asian interactions. Open to the general public, these activities also inform the non-academic community about the importance of understanding the ways in which Asian polities and societies have interacted through time and space.

THE INDIAN AND CHINESE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

During the first half of 2010, the Centre organised two international conferences, one workshop, and one colloquium. In January, the workshop titled **Indian and Chinese Immigrant Communities: Comparative Perspectives**, organised in collaboration with the Centre of Asian Studies, Hong Kong University, focused on various facets of the Indian and Chinese immigrant communities across the globe within a comparative framework. Whilst earlier research has generally focused on either of the communities separately, this conference explored the comparative frames in which the two could be studied. The two immigrant communities have been sharing space in the Southeast Asian region for several centuries and, while retaining their ethnic features, have assimilated and imbibed to form distinct identities of their own. The aim of the workshop was to extend recent debates on the need to move beyond nation-based histories and geographies to explore the overlaps between Indian and Chinese migrant groups.

Spanning both historical and contemporary contexts, the workshop explored cultural, material, and imaginative features of the immigrant communities by addressing theoretical and methodological issues as well as specific case studies. The workshop brought together scholars from China, India, the UK, Canada, the US, Australia and other places to present diverse views on the two immigrant communities. ISEAS Chairman Professor Wang Gungwu remarked on the tremendous potential for scholarship on the Chinese and the Indian immigrant communities and the need to deliberate on the impact that they will have on the future. He also noted the increasingly significant global role of the Chinese and the Indian immigrant communities that have forced the respective governments to take greater interest in them. Other senior participants included Professor Takeshi Hamashita from Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, Professor R K Jain, senior anthropologist at the Indian Council for Social Science Research, New Delhi, Professor Tan Chee Beng from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Wong Siu-lun of the University of Hong Kong, Professor Leo Suryadinata, Director, Chinese Heritage Centre, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and Associate Professor Madhavi Thampi from the Department of East Asian Studies, Delhi University.

BOTH THE CHINESE AND INDIAN COMMUNITIES HAVE CONSIDERABLE VISIBILITY IN DIFFERENT GEO-POLITICAL DEMOGRAPHIES. THE AIM OF THE WORKSHOP WAS TO EXTEND RECENT DEBATES ON THE NEED TO MOVE BEYOND NATION-BASED HISTORIES AND GEOGRAPHIES TO EXPLORE THE OVERLAPS BETWEEN INDIAN AND CHINESE MIGRANT GROUPS.

AN AGE IN MOTION: THE ASIAN VOYAGES OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE

In May, the Centre, in collaboration with Harvard University and Peking University, convened the second in a series of conferences on Rabindranath Tagore marking the 150th birth anniversary in 2011. The theme of this conference was **An Age in Motion: The Asian Voyages of Rabindranath Tagore**.

Tagore made his first trip beyond India in 1878, when he travelled to Britain to study. But his more influential voyages were to be to the countries of Asia, beginning in 1916 with a visit to Burma and in then to Sri Lanka in 1922. Longer visits to China and Japan in 1924, Singapore, Malaya, Indonesia and Thailand in 1927, and China, Japan and Indo-China in 1929 were interspersed with further visits to Sri Lanka and, in addition, to many countries in the Middle East and Europe.

The ways in which Tagore was received during his Asian voyages varied enormously, with some in his audiences considering him a “seer and patriarch”, or even a saint with “a great and tender soul”, while others rejected him as a “petrified fossil” who would maintain the oppression of enslaved peoples by “preaching to them patience and apathy”. The radicals and revolutionaries of China, in particular, were vehement in their denunciation of their visitor, who claimed to be intent on saving the spirituality of the East from the materialism of the West. By bringing together scholars to discuss the Asian voyages of Tagore from both his own viewpoints and those of the scholars, officials, writers and artists with whom he interacted during these voyages, the conference elucidated the Tagore phenomena during the 1910s and 1920s. The papers presented examined the visits of Tagore to Burma, Singapore, Indonesia, China, and Japan. Papers also dealt with the impact of Tagore in Vietnam and Korea. The keynote address by Professor Sugata Bose analysed Tagore’s voyages within the context of Asian universalism and the intellectual and artistic milieu of diverse parts of Asia during the 1910s-1920s, which has been termed by Takashi Shiraishi as “an age in motion”. ▼



Tagore in China. The ways in which Tagore was received and reacted to during his Asian voyages varied enormously, with some in his audiences considering him a “seer and patriarch”, or even a saint with “a great and tender soul”, while others rejected him as a “petrified fossil”



THERAVADA BUDDHISM UNDER COLONIALISM: ADAPTATION AND RESPONSE

The colonial period in Asia also formed the backdrop of the conference called **Theravada Buddhism Under Colonialism: Adaptation and Response** that was held in May. While much work has been done in studying social change in Southeast Asian colonial polities during the 19th and 20th centuries, there has been very little research on the varying effects of colonialism on Theravada Buddhism in the diverse polities of Southeast Asia, particularly in a comparative mode. Such comparisons have been restricted by national and linguistic differences, making fruitful comparative analyses difficult. Moreover, there were at least three colonial regimes in the region: the French in Laos and Cambodia, the British in Sri Lanka and Burma, and the Qing state among the Tai communities of Yunnan. The conference, co-sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, brought together scholars of colonial-period Buddhism to explore and to think comparatively about the effects of colonialism on Buddhism in Southeast Asia. Was there a Theravada response to colonialism? If so, how was it marked? If not, why? What were the new intra-Asian connectivities created by Theravada Buddhism during the colonial period? Issues that were also addressed extensively were definitional concerns (for example, what do we mean by Theravada and is it a useful designation? What is colonialism in this context?), political dynamics (resistance and collaboration with colonial regimes) and institutional shifts (new schools or ways of looking produced because of, or in spite of, colonial regimes).

INDIA-CHINA DIALOGUE: THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS

The final event dealt with a more contemporary issue. India and China have had over 2,000 years of interactions and exchanges. These historical interactions are often emphasised as representative of pre-modern intra-Asian interactions.

During the post-colonial period, however, the two new modern nation states confronted each other in regard to the border issue, unresolved till the present. India and China maintain a complex relationship that is dominated by lack of mutual understanding and trust. Indeed, despite the massive growth of bilateral trade between China and India, tensions over territorial and political issues have also grown, particularly in 2008-09. While some sources of stress are real, their effects are mediated and often inflamed by media depictions and portrayals of these tensions. Moreover, circumstances may also arise where the media tend to downplay more positive aspects of the relationship.

In collaboration with the National University of Singapore and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the Centre has initiated a high-level **India-China Dialogue Series** that focuses on the role of the media.

The first India-China Dialogue took place on 2 and 3 July with seven highly-respected representatives from each of India and China. The participants engaged in in-depth discussions of the role of the media in arenas such as diplomacy, domestic affairs, geopolitics, and cultural exchanges. The overarching issues of trust deficit, the lack of knowledge transfer, and the absence of educational and research structures in India-China relations were debated by the participants. It was recommended that a more intensive exchange between media people may be the first step in resolving some of the issues. Closer cooperation in various other fields, especially educational, and people-to-people exchanges in order to promote understanding and trust were also emphasised. The organisers were asked to explore the possibility of holding the next round of the Dialogue in Beijing.

WAS THERE A
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IF SO, HOW WAS IT
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THE NEW INTRA-ASIAN
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CREATED BY
THERAVADA
BUDDHISM?

Dr Tansen Sen, Visiting Senior Research Fellow heading the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre at ISEAS, is Associate Professor of Asian History and Religions at Baruch College, The City University of New York. Author of Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade: The Realignment of Sino-Indian Relations, 600-1400, Dr Sen has conducted extensive research in India, China, and Japan with grants from the American Institute of Indian Studies, the Japan Foundation, the American Philosophical Society, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Portuguese and Luso-Asian Legacies in Southeast Asia, 1511–2011

BY LAURA JARNAGIN PANG

Half a millennium has passed since the Portuguese first sailed into Southeast Asian waters where, by 1511, Afonso de Albuquerque established a commanding presence at Melaka, one of the key ports along the Asian maritime trading routes that connected the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean, after having done likewise at Goa in 1510. Albuquerque was the first captain-general of Pernambuco, Brazil, and as such his coming to Southeast Asia was part of Portugal's grand design to build a global commercial empire. Melaka was chosen to serve as the Asian hub for the enterprise, making it a Luso-Asian project from the outset.

The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, the Embassy of Portugal in Singapore, and the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) – Melaka Campus are taking the occasion of this historic milestone to reflect upon the past 500 years of Portuguese, Luso-Asian, and Asian actions, reactions, and interactions at a conference titled **Portuguese and Luso-Asian Legacies in Southeast Asia, 1511-2011**.

The conference, to be held in September, will have 28 scholars from thirteen countries presenting their recent research findings and theoretical perspectives to advance our knowledge and understanding of the Portuguese presence throughout a geographical area extending from Goa to Melaka to Macau from the early 16th century to the present. An edited volume of select conference papers will be launched in the latter part of 2011. There are plans for a Portuguese-language version of the volume to be published as well. The conference is being put together with generous support from the Government of Portugal's Comemorações Portugal/Asia program and from the Eurasian Association of Singapore.

From the late 15th to the early 16th centuries, the Portuguese were the first European nation to enter the seas of South, Southeast, and East Asia systematically, thereby accessing Asian spice and luxury goods markets previously linked to Europe primarily by overland routes. With sea power, Europe was able to insert itself into the existing trade systems of the Indian Ocean, the South China Sea, and the western Pacific.

Thus began a new era in global trading that ultimately changed the order of magnitude of commercial relations worldwide. It also ushered in a denser and more complex set of political, social, economic, cultural, scientific, and religious interactions among the peoples of the Eurasian continent (and, by extension, insular Southeast Asia) – especially those at its eastern and western extremities – than had previously existed. As such, the coming of the Europeans by sea to Asia is a watershed in understanding the making of the globalized world that we know today.

The Portuguese system of *feitoria* – coastal cabotage linking various trading outposts and outsourcing raw material production to indigenous potentates – was adopted by subsequent European powers, notably the Dutch, French, and English. Even though the Portuguese were minor players in the theatre of seaborne Asian trading in colonial times, this system eventually altered local modes of production significantly. In rather short order (in historical terms), Europeans came to dominate the maritime traffic of Southeast Asia, extending from the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea. Only ▼

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A typical Portuguese *azulejo* or glazed ceramic tile. The golden age of *azulejo* art came during Portugal's colonial expansion in China, Goa and the East Indies. The new wealth led to new palaces, churches, convents and monasteries decorated inside and out with tile scenes.

now are there statistical signs to suggest that this long-standing non-Asian dominance of the region's shipping is giving way to majority ownership by Asian concerns.

Over time, the Portuguese did not prove to be the most powerful of the European interlopers in many senses of the word. If anything, scholars today agree that to call Portugal's undertaking in Asia an "empire" is an egregious stretch of the word's meaning. Nevertheless, the relatively fractured, tenuous, and diasporic Portuguese presence in the region, in both formal and informal senses, remains discernable to this day in a variety of manifestations and in some contexts even influential.

The legacies of the Portuguese presence in Asia continue to be the subject of active academic inquiry by a wide variety of disciplines. As other quincentenaries in the Portuguese pantheon of sea borne voyages of discovery have been observed in recent years, we have witnessed an attendant broad range of revisionist thinking in the academic world on this subject. Such overarching themes as hybridity, transformation, harmonization, accommodation, reciprocity, conflict, collaboration, and integration will inform the works of the scholars presenting papers at this conference as seen through the lenses of such fields as history, linguistics, musicology, literature, anthropology, sociology, folklore, culture studies, and architecture.

The conference papers will explore these themes at various points in time and space across the past half-millennium and through a geographical expanse encompassing segments of South, Southeast, and East Asia.

For instance, new demographic light will be shed on the composition of the population of the Estado da Índia from the mid-18th to the early 19th centuries, and on two major dispersions of Luso-Asian communities from colonial times onward, first as civil servants in Britain's Asian empire and second in the post-World War II era as they moved to English-speaking countries around the world.

The complex and multi-faceted phenomenon of creolization will receive extensive examination from several angles, ranging from a new theoretical perspective based on the creole phenomenon in the Americas and its implications for understanding it in Asia, to complex linguistic hybridities found today in such locales as Melaka and Macau.

The dynamics of identity itself will be dissected and understood in its many incarnations such as through collective memory, identity swapping, multiple identity, mythical identity, threats of loss of identity, and resurgence of identity. Religion will inform several conference papers, ranging from an examination of the diverse and not always mutually compatible lay Catholic communities in Melaka, Ayutthaya (Siam), and Faifo (Cochinchina), to interactions between the Portuguese Sephardim and non-Catholic communities in Cochin and Goa, and to Hindu-Catholic interactions as revealed in literary works.

Host society perceptions of the Portuguese will be explored through the eyes of Chinese construction workers in the Macau of the 16th through 18th centuries and of today's inhabitants of the Malukus in their adoption of old Portuguese and Spanish forts as icons of their cultural heritage.

The mobility of knowledge and culture will be revealed through such diverse media as the dissemination and exchange of medicinal knowledge of tropical plants throughout the Portuguese empire based on centuries of cultivations in a Goan garden and as the persistence of musical motifs in Portuguese communities worldwide from the 16th century onward.

The conference will be held on 28-30 September 2010 in Singapore and Melaka.
For more information, please contact Dr Laura Pang at lpang@iseas.edu.sg

SUCH OVERARCHING THEMES AS HYBRIDITY, TRANSFORMATION, HARMONIZATION, ACCOMMODATION, RECIPROCITY, CONFLICT, COLLABORATION, AND INTEGRATION WILL INFORM THE WORKS OF THE SCHOLARS PRESENTING PAPERS AT THIS CONFERENCE AS SEEN THROUGH THE LENSES OF SUCH FIELDS AS HISTORY, LINGUISTICS, MUSICOLOGY, LITERATURE, ANTHROPOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, FOLKLORE, CULTURE STUDIES, AND ARCHITECTURE.

Dr Laura Jarnagin Pang is Visiting Professorial Fellow at ISEAS and Associate Professor Emerita, Division of Liberal Arts and International Studies at the Colorado School of Mines. Dr Pang holds a PhD in Latin American History with specialization in 19th century Brazilian socio-economic history. She is the author of A Confluence of Transatlantic Networks: Elites, Capitalism, and Confederate Migration to Brazil.

‘A Reluctant Politician’

Transcript of PRESIDENT S R NATHAN’S speech at the launch of the book

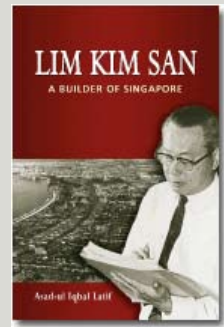
Lim Kim San: A Builder of Singapore, an ISEAS publication

“It is with much pleasure that I launch this book on Mr Lim Kim San, with whom I had the privilege of working at various times in my Civil Service career and later, while he was Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers (from 2 Jan 1992 to 1 Jan 2004).

He will be remembered by many as a prominent member of Singapore’s Founding generation of political leaders. Above all, it is to him we owe much for the amazing success of our public housing such that 87% of our people are housed in HDB homes – making them proud owners of property, whose values have risen with our growing prosperity over the past 40-odd years. It was within Singapore that the effects of the almost magical transformation of the country’s landscape were felt most keenly. Today, the HDB flats which people own give them a tangible stake in our nation.

At a time when few would have taken up the challenge of speedily building low-cost public housing and under difficult political conditions, he dared to pick up the challenge.

The task he accepted was formidable – housing a population that lived in acutely overcrowded conditions. According to a social study conducted in the mid-1950s, a large percentage of houses was shared by eleven or more households, with the great majority (84%) of households living in one room or one cubicle or worse. Sometimes, a family of two adults and four children under 10 years shared a room. Such were the conditions he had to change.



Lim Kim San: A Builder of Singapore, written by ISEAS Visiting Research Fellow Asad-ul Iqbal Latif, was launched by President S R Nathan at the NTU Alumni Club on 15 June.

The book can be purchased online from <http://bookshop.iseas.edu.sg>

President S R Nathan launches the book, *Lim Kim San: A Builder of Singapore* while Deputy Chairman of the ISEAS Board of Trustees Mr Wong Ah Long and ISEAS Director Ambassador K Kesavapany (extreme left) look on.



Mr Lim was indeed a reluctant politician. He persistently refused to enter politics and only agreed to head the Housing and Development Board in 1960, as a volunteer without any remuneration whatsoever. It was only in 1963 that he agreed to enter politics and began serving as Minister for National Development. Until he retired from politics in 1981, he held many political appointments with distinction. A reading of this book will give insights into Lim Kim San’s personal experiences in visiting slums as well as his many achievements in the numerous offices he held during his political career and in the years after retirement. Unlike other leaders who faded away in retirement, Lim Kim San remained very much in the centre of developments in our society and in the State, until his last days.

This book begins with a touching anecdote, which I am moved to repeat. It took place soon after Mr Lim was appointed Chairman of the Housing and Development Board in 1960. When he went around the slum area in Chinatown, he came across a labourer in a bunk who had a blanket pulled right up



to his neck. Mr Lim asked the man whether he was sick. The man replied that he had no pants on. When Mr Lim asked him why, he replied that his brother was wearing his pants, and that he was wearing briefs. Privately, Mr Lim thought that the man was not wearing briefs and was obviously sharing his pants with his brother. If the living were badly off, the dead were not exempt, either, from sharing clothes. Clothing and shoes were pulled off the dead and sold in shops. "My God", Mr Lim thought to himself, "I really must help these people". Such was the state of affairs in Singapore's early years.

Mr Lim played other crucial roles in building the nation. His ministerial portfolios included the key ministries of Finance, the Interior and Defence, Education, National Development, and the Environment. He was also Chairman of various important Statutory Boards like the Port of Singapore Authority, Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, and later Chairman of Singapore Press Holdings. In each of these roles, he was meticulous in his attention to detail – an ability that came to underline as well the Singapore leadership's reputation to deliver on its promises. His "feel" for a person's real character and dependability was legendary. He retired from Parliament in 1981 but continued to help the political leadership in the selection of able candidates. I have heard that those who appeared before him found the selection process unnerving. Thus, he contributed in a way to enhancing the quality of public life in Singapore, by helping to identify young talent to manage and build our society.

My working experience with him was relatively limited. He was not a difficult person to work for. His demands were always for quality in one's work. He seldom interfered in any task he gave and never indulged in micro-managing his officers – though he was often quick in discovering a fault.

This book seeks to capture the essence of the man and the times he lived in. It is my hope that all who read this book will learn much about this illustrious Singaporean who contributed so much to what Singaporeans of all walks of life enjoy today."

Felicitations!



Dr OOI KEE BENG has recently been promoted to Senior Fellow at ISEAS.

An expert on Malaysian politics (he is coordinator for ISEAS' Malaysia Study Programme) and a prolific writer, Dr Ooi is working on another biography on first generation leaders, this time that of Dr Goh Keng Swee.

Dr Ooi started on the project three years ago, just after he completed *The Reluctant Politician: Tun Dr Ismail and His Time*, that received an Excellence Award for Best Writing Published in Book Form on Any Aspect of Asia (Non-Fiction)' at the Asian Publishing Convention Awards in 2008. It was also turned into a musical titled "Ismail: The Last Days" by the Kuala Lumpur Performance Arts Centre and was staged in August 2008, winning seven awards in the process.

Heartiest congratulations Kee Beng, from all your friends at ISEAS and beyond.

Southeast Asian Affairs 2010 is out!



"Now in its 37th edition, *Southeast Asian Affairs* offers an indispensable guide to this fascinating region. Lively, analytical, authoritative, and accessible, there is nothing comparable in quality or range to this series. It is a must-read for academics, government officials, the business community, the media, and anybody with an interest in contemporary Southeast Asia. Drawing on its unparalleled network of researchers and commentators, ISEAS is to be congratulated for producing this major contribution to our understanding of this diverse and fast-changing region, to a consistently high standard and in a timely manner."

– **Prof Hal Hill**

H W Arndt Professor of Southeast Asian Economics
Australian National University

"*Southeast Asian Affairs* provides, without fear or favour, informed and in-depth annual analyses of this vibrant region and its component countries. It is the only publication which does this and is in its own class without peers. It is a mandatory reference and read for those seriously interested in knowing Southeast Asia."

– **Prof Dato' Dr A B Shamsui**

Founding Director, Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

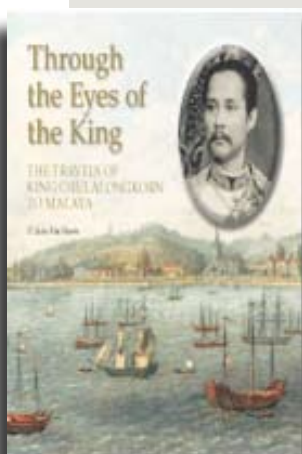
Southeast Asian Affairs 2010, Daljit Singh, editor

Publisher: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Pub Date: 2010. No of pages: 409

Soft cover ISBN: 978-981-4279-81-9 **S\$39.90/US\$29.90**

Hard cover ISBN: 978-981-4279-82-6 **S\$59.90/US\$43.90**

To buy the book, visit www.bookshop.iseas.edu.sg. You can even buy individual chapters online.



ISEAS title wins Gold

ISEAS publication *Through the Eyes of the King: The Travels of King Chulalongkorn to Malaya* has won the prestigious Gold Prize at the 16th APPA Book awards. The Asia Pacific Publishers Association's APPA Awards have been established as one of the most coveted book awards in the region.

The book, by Pat Lim Pui Huen, takes the reader to old Malaya as seen through the eyes of King Chulalongkorn of Siam. The King was probably the most travelled monarch of his time. He went to Java three times, India and Burma once, and Europe twice. In all these journeys, he had to pass through Singapore, and when he went westwards, he had to pass through Penang.

The context of each journey is discussed in the light of Siam's relations with Britain and the northern Malay states that were still under Siamese suzerainty. Malaya was both holiday destination and confrontational space.

President Obama receives ISEAS book

ASEAN Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan presents a copy of *Realizing the ASEAN Economic Community* to US President Barack Obama at the ASEAN-US Summit. This ISEAS publication is edited by Michael G Plummer and Chia Siow Yue. It is available for purchase online.



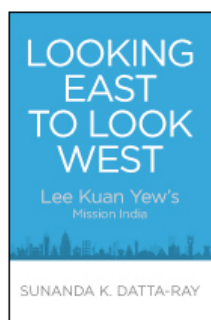
Asian Publishing Award for ISEAS' *The Singapore Lion*

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IRENE NG's book *The Singapore Lion: A Biography of S Rajaratnam*, published by ISEAS, has won an Excellence Award in the 'Best Book / Best Writer on Asian Socio-Economic or Media Scene' category of the prestigious annual Asian Publishing Awards 2010. Ms Ng's book competed with publishing entries from 32 companies in 10 countries from the region.

Left: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong congratulates Ms Ng at the launch of her book at the National Library in February.



Another award nomination



ISEAS Publication, *Looking East to Look West – Lee Kuan Yew's Mission India*, has been shortlisted in the non-fiction section for the prestigious Vodafone Crossword Book Award. The Vodafone Crossword Book Award, formerly Hutch-Crossword Book Award, is India's biggest private sector award that hopes to compete with The Booker, The Pulitzer and The Commonwealth Writers' Prize. A journalist for over forty years, author Sunanda K Datta-Ray's columns and essays appear in a wide range of publications, including the *International Herald Tribune* and *Time* magazine.

For this book the writer has studied the profound intricacies of the relationship between Singapore and India – what he himself calls "the saga of a relationship that straddles the frontiers of foreign and domestic affairs, history and culture, politics and personality and private life".